









# Murder trial court sees police video film of family stabbing aftermath

The bloody scenes encountered by the detectives who first entered the home of Mr Basil Laitner and his family were shown at the trial of Arthur Hutchinson yesterday.

A ten minute section of a police video film was played before the six men and six women of the jury and 50 members of the public and press, on the third day of the trial at Durham Crown Court.

Two 26 inch colour television sets were put up in the wall of the court, one facing the jury and the other in front of the dock where Mr Hutchinson sat handcuffed between two prison officers.

Mr Hutchinson, of Kelsco Grove, Hartlepool, Cleveland, is accused of murdering Mr Laitner, a Sheffield solicitor, his wife Avril, a doctor, and their son Richard, aged 28, at their home in Dore, Sheffield, after a wedding reception for their elder daughter, Suzanne, on October 23 last year.

He is also charged with unlawful sexual intercourse with Miss Nichola Laitner, aged 18, and with aggravated burglary. He denies all the charges.

The film opened with a shot of the outside of the Laitners' house in Dore Road, a village suburb of Sheffield. The camera then showed the wooden stairs where the body of Mr Laitner, his striped pyjamas stained with blood, lay face down where he had fallen after the prosecution alleges, being stabbed to death by Mr Hutchinson.

The film showed blood staining the green carpeted stairs, and, according to Mr Robin Stewart, QC, for the prosecution,

From Peter Davenport, Durham

ecution, footmarks in the blood. Earlier in the case the court was told that Miss Nichola Laitner, aged 18, the only member of the family to survive the attack, had been forced to walk past her father's body, trailing her foot in his blood, before being raped in the garden marquee where the wedding reception had been held.

Earlier the court heard evidence from the first people to arrive at the Laitner house after the killings, Mr George Wordsworth and Mr David Weatherall had come to dismantle the marquee. They

heard Miss Laitner scream, and called the emergency services.

Mrs Suzanne Wolfe, aged 24, the Laitners' elder daughter, told the court of the last weekend she spent with her family. She said that she travelled to the family home from her job as a school teacher in the Mile End district of east London on the Friday before the wedding.

She and her brother, Richard, travelled together by train and their father met them at Sheffield station at about 7.30 pm, taking them home for what was to be their last dinner together.

"My mother was very keen for the five of us to have dinner together because when I was married things would be different", Mrs Wolfe said.

The meal finished before 9.30 pm, when she went to her bedroom to mowrap wedding presents. During that time her mother, father and brother came in and out of the room but she did not recollect her sister Nichola being present.

On Wednesday it was alleged on behalf of Mr Hutchinson that he had met Miss Laitner in a Sheffield public house on the Friday night and that she had invited him back to the house that weekend. Miss Laitner denied the suggestion.

Mrs Lucy Broomhead, proprietor of the lodging house in Sheffield where Mr Hutchinson is said to have stayed, using the name Patrick O'Keardon, told the court that he was absent from his room on the Sunday night when the murders took place but returned the next morning at 8 am.

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Family life is going strong, report says

By Nicholas Timmins, Social Services Correspondent

The image of the British family as falling apart, failing to care for its elderly and disabled and being mollycoddled by the welfare state is a myth, the National Council for Voluntary Organizations said yesterday.

In a report compiled from evidence from 64 voluntary organizations, the council says that the myths that the young are delinquents, that working women neglect their children, that single parents are immoral and that the old are no longer respected are dangerous and divisive. They provide an excuse for doing nothing when money is restricted, when more resources are needed to encourage self-help among families.

The report says that families still undertake the lion's share of caring. Only 5 per cent of those aged over 65 live in institutions. If just 1 per cent of families caring for an elderly person refuse to carry on and asked for residential care, the cost to the state of health care would rise by 20 per cent.

Eight out of ten severely handicapped children under 15 and four out of 10 severely handicapped adults live with their families and for the less severely handicapped the figures are much higher.

The report argues that more day centres, a "carer's allowance", "granny-sitting" and respite schemes would help families to cope better and lead fewer to resort to residential care.

The image of one-parent families as mostly young unmarried mothers is also a myth, the report says. While women make up 90 per cent of one-parent families, only 16 per cent are single, with 34 per cent divorced, 22 per cent separated and 17 per cent widowed.

Marriage is still important, the report says. More than 90 per cent of women marry compared with 70 per cent in mid-Victorian times. Three out of 10 first marriages and four out of 10 second marriages end in divorce, and the report says that divorce is still difficult, painful and often leaves people poorer, with 80 per cent of divorcing parents saying they needed special family courts and mediation outside the court room. Better counselling services might prevent as many as half of divorces, according to the director of the London Marriage Guidance Council, the report says.

Ask the family, NCVO, 26 Bedford Square, London, WC1B JHV. £2.95.

## Hearse with body driven at 102 mph

A driver who was dismissed after being caught driving his employer's hearse at 102 mph with a corpse in the back, claimed unfair dismissal at an Industrial Tribunal in Newcastle upon Tyne yesterday.

Mr John Maule, aged 40, was banned from driving and fined £100.

The following day his employer, Mr Raymond Harrison, a funeral director, dismissed him because of the gravity of the offence, the tribunal heard.

Mr Harrison said Mr Maule had not told the Gosforth firm he had been stopped by the police while bringing a body from Manchester to Newcastle.

He added that Mr Maule had already had one warning after a previous speeding fine - again with a body in the hearse.

Mr Maule said he was speeding because his employers had told him to do the 250-mile round trip within five hours but his claim was dismissed by the tribunal.

## Rail seats pass

Passengers on overnight trains from King's Cross will have to reserve a seat by getting a boarding pass with their ticket. The scheme is aimed at preventing overcrowding on those services. British Rail decided yesterday to drop its previous plan to charge £1 for the seat reservation, which will now be at no extra cost.

## Actor marries

John Hurt, the award-winning actor, aged 44, married Donna Peacock, aged 34, an American actress at Acton Register Office, London, yesterday. The couple celebrated by attending the premiere of his latest film, *The Hit*.

## Youth for trial

A youth, aged 16, was committed without bail to Kingston Crown Court yesterday by Reigate Juvenile Court, accused of beating and partially blinding Ian Weller, aged 10, of Redhill, Surrey.

## TV man dies

Mr Donny McLeod, a presenter with the BBC *Pebble Mill* at One television programme since 1973, died yesterday at his home in Aberdeen. He was 52.

## Ice cream trial jury told of gun attack

The jury in the Glasgow multiple murder trial yesterday heard a statement which one of the victims, Mr Andrew Doyle, an ice cream van driver, gave to the police after an alleged attempt on his life in February. Mr Doyle, aged 18, and five other family members died in a fire at their home in April.



Rural rides: Mrs Lucinda Green (left), Mr Colin Wares and Mrs Linda Laidig-Stavin of the United States in the Burghley Reiny Martin Horse Trials at Stamford, Lincolnshire (Photographs Harry Kerr). Report, page 25.

## Children at risk of computer addiction

By Hilary Wilce of The Times Educational Supplement

Many children are at risk of becoming computer addicts at school and those in greatest danger are children with social problems, according to research at Loughborough University.

The young addicts spent hours at lunchtime and after school working on the computers, and can arrive at school up to two hours early to play with the machines.

Often they are pupils with family difficulties, or with trouble building friendships, and their computer addiction appears to make these situations worse, teachers say.

They report that the addicts club together in small cliques and become selfish about their specialist knowledge, refusing to share it with other pupils. Yet the educational benefits of their obsession seem doubtful, their teachers suspect.

The researcher, Ms Margaret Shotton, is in the early stages of interviewing people who say that their lives have been disrupted and damaged by computers. Most are adult males with microcomputers at home, but Ms Shotton has also been sought out by teachers worried about the problems among schoolchildren.

## Airlines to cut flight costs to Switzerland

Another success in the fight for cheaper air fares on Europe was announced yesterday with 25 per cent cuts in the lowest fares to Switzerland.

These follow cuts in fares between Britain and Holland, Germany, and France in recent months and Mr Colin Marshall, chief executive of British Airways last night promised "more to come".

The new low fares, offered by both British Airways and Swissair from October 15, are £88 return to Basle and Geneva (29 off) and £92 return London to Zurich (£30 off), on certain off-peak flights only, and the traveller must stay overnight on Saturday.

## Roadside breath tests at record level

Nearly a quarter of a million drivers - the highest recorded figure - were stopped by police for roadside breath tests last year, and a third of them gave positive samples. The figures, disclosed by the Home Office yesterday, showed an increase of 18 per cent over the number of roadside breath tests in 1982.

From May 6, 1983, when the Intoximeter evidential breath tester was introduced to the end of the year, 74,300 people were asked to give breath samples at a police station, 16,300 failed to do so. Eighty two per cent of those tested were found to be over the legal limit.

## Motorists face 10% rise in insurance

A "substantial" rise in car insurance premiums was forecast yesterday, starting with an increase of between 7.5 per cent and 10 per cent later this year.

The warning came from Mr Peter Suttle, chairman of Lloyd's motor Underwriters' Association, who said that one of the main reasons was an alarming rise in theft, vandalism and other crime.

Reporting a final 1981 profit of £38m for Lloyd's motor insurance business, Mr Suttle said profits would be more difficult to achieve in 1982 and 1983, and preliminary figures for 1984 were "very disappointing".

Because of crime insurance premiums for fire, third party and theft cover were likely to rise, particularly in urban areas of high unemployment, and for vehicles not kept in locked premises overnight.

New car sales last month fell to 303,552 compared with the August 1983 record of 375,000. Higher interest rates, the metal workers' strike in Germany and the dock strike in July were blamed for the fall.

Japanese manufacturers made the best showing, improving their share from 10.2 per cent a year ago to 13.7 per cent, but only by supporting their dealers with unusually big discount incentives.

Nissan moved up to fourth place, increasing its share to 7.6 per cent. There is evidence to suggest however that considerable numbers of Nissans were registered by dealers in the last few days of August to qualify for bonus payments based on registration figures.

Ford maintained its leadership with 28.6 per cent, followed by Austin Rover with 15.3 per cent and General Motors with 14 per cent.

The ten best-selling cars in August were: Escort, 32,359; Fiesta, 21,026; Cavalier, 19,454; Sierra, 17,422; Metro 14,967; Orion 10,342; Maestro 9,787; Astra 8,915; Nova 8,789; Montego 8,078.

Motoring, page 27

# Time is money

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# Privatization of health services a recipe for 'corruption and low pay'

Reports by John Winder, Derek Barnett, and Stephen Goodwin

Wherever public need was met by private greed corruption was not far behind. Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the National Union of Public Employees, said yesterday in opening the privatization debate at the 116th annual TUC Congress, held at the Brighton Conference Centre.

"For privatization in the public services read profiteering, read lower standards, back-handers, expense account lunches and sweatshop wage levels," Mr Bickerstaffe told delegates.

The congress passed unanimously a resolution condemning the Government's attempts to force health authorities to employ private contractors. It resolved to launch a national campaign to highlight the failures by contractors in the health service, the risk to patients and low pay.

The Labour Party was urged to make its intentions clear on renationalization, so that prospective buyers were under no misunderstanding. Trade union trustees of pension funds were instructed to do everything in their power to prevent those funds being used to buy shares of industries undergoing privatization, because that would be collaborating with the Government.

The resolution acknowledged the failures by contractors in the health service, the risk to patients and low pay.

Mr Bickerstaffe said that privatization was at the core of the Government's political philosophy, which was about breaking with the tradition of public service, dedication and expertise - and replacing it with "cowboy outfits".

He described a school where children had been sent home because their privately cleaned building was so dirty.

Mr Bryan Stanley, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, seconding the NUPE Resolution, said the Conservatives' sustained and ruthless attack on public services showed no signs of abating. "The privatization of British Telecom, probably in November could be a launching pad of an even more intensive attack on public services."

Mr Stanley said that too little had been done by the TUC to coordinate, organize or lead the fight to save public services. "A much stronger, united campaign is urgently needed. We must make a much more visible effort to win public opinion."

Mr Cyril Ambler, Confederation of Health Service Employees, said the Government had encouraged cajoled and deceived health authorities into contracting out some ancillary services. "Privatization is not only a threat to our members' jobs, it is a threat to the standard of services and to patient care."

Workers at the Barking Hospital had gone on strike because the cleaning contractors, in their determination to retain the contract, had cut their price by 41 per cent by reducing working hours by 40 per cent and wages from £87 a week to



Mr Bickerstaffe: "Privatization is profiteering."

£47 a week. Holidays had been reduced to three weeks and the long-established sick pay scheme had been abolished.

There were proven links between Tory MPs and private contractors. There was Mr Marcus Fox, MP for Shipley; Sir Geoffrey Finsberg, MP for Hampstead and Highgate; Mr Michael Forsyth, MP for Stirling; Sir Anthony Grant, MP for Cambridgeshire South West; Mr Geoffrey Lawler, MP for Bradford North.

Mr David Bassett, for the general council, said it wanted to strengthen and expand the campaign against privatization, to take the lead. The whole trade union movement, not just the public sector unions, were interested, in this campaign. One reservation was that the primary of union rules and procedures on industrial action against privatization must be accepted.

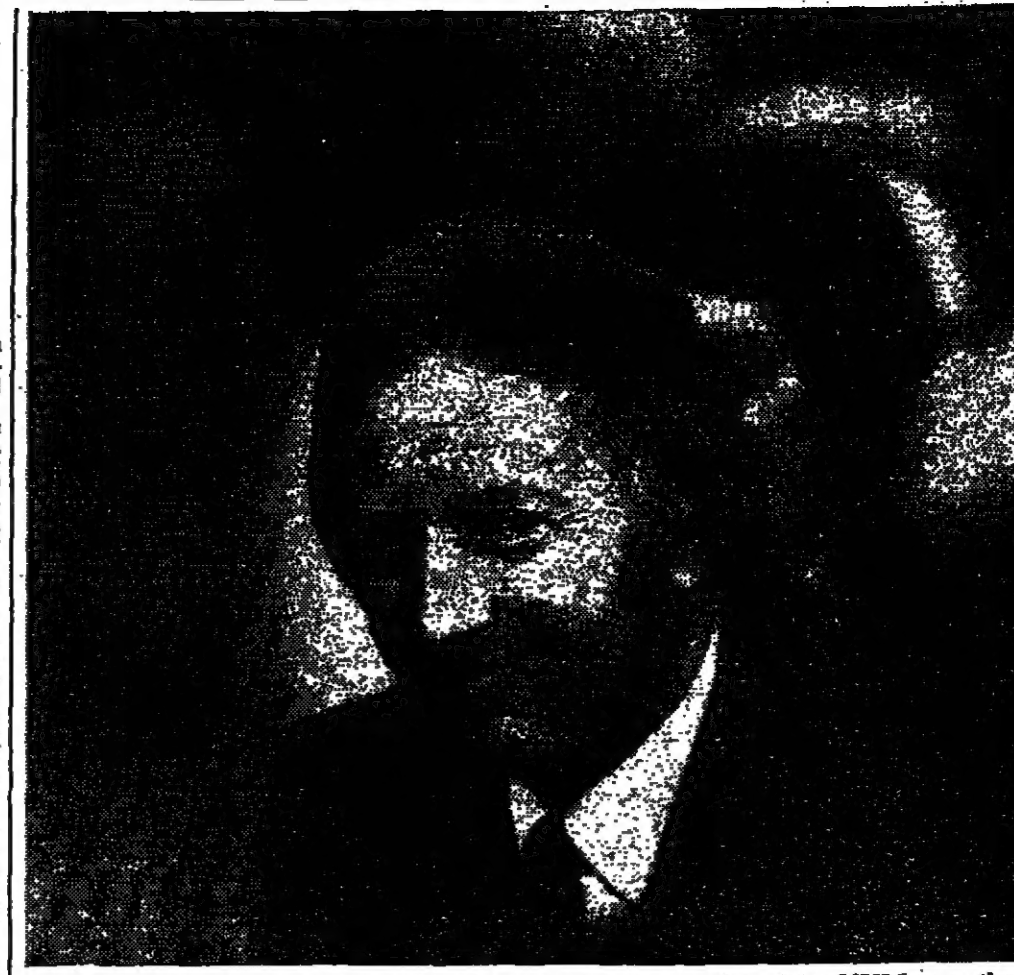
Secondly, research into consumer attitude could improve the professionalism of the campaign, but that would need resources and the general council must be able to control their allocation between the campaigns required by the congress.

Delegates passed unanimously a motion attacking the Government's plans to privatize bus services. On a show of hands the congress agreed that the TUC would call for maximum opposition and for urgent action to secure withdrawal of privatization and deregulation.

The motion called on unions to campaign against the plans. It said the proposals would lead to massive job losses, the disappearance of many vital rural and suburban services, virtual immobilization of millions without a car, lower safety standards and almost certainly rising fares and deteriorating services.

Mr Terry Law, chairman of the national transport committee of the National and Local Government Officers' Association, moving the motion, said the plan was to sell the profitable and efficient National Bus Company and to turn back the clock 50 years, bringing back "cowboy" competition and all that implied for public safety. Buses would be dealt with as the railways had been by Dr Beeching.

David Watt, page 12



A careful smile: Mr Arthur Scargill after an impromptu meeting of the NUM executive on the congress floor yesterday (Photograph: John Manning).

## Vitriolic attacks on press Labour Party daily newspaper shelved

By Glenn Allan

Fleet Street newspaper proprietors were the subject of a vitriolic attack as the congress united in support of a statutory right of reply for anyone who believed they had been misrepresented by the media.

The most strident criticism was directed at what Mr Aidan White, National Union of Journalists, described as the monopoly of the three Ms, Rupert Murdoch, Lord Matthews and Robert Maxwell.

The three controlled 80 per cent of national daily newspapers. They represented the greatest threat to press freedom and needed to be made accountable.

Mr White was supporting a National Graphical Association motion deploring media attempts to trivialize and personalize industrial disputes. It condemned the consistent anti-trade union bias opted for by the vast majority of the national and local press.

The motion welcomed and endorsed the action of printworkers in helping to ensure that unions in industrial disputes obtained the "right of reply" and instructed the general council to seek an assurance from the Labour Party that it would maintain this in legislation.

Mr Bryn Griffiths, moving the motion, said a legal right of reply must be a priority for the incoming Labour government. What better example of gutter journalism at its worst was there than the scurrilous, personal attacks on the character of the president of the NUM.

Mr Mike Power, NGA, said it was time for the TUC and affiliated associations to boycott the Press Council, which had nothing to do with press freedom. It opposed a genuine statutory right of reply and did not support an enforceable code of conduct for journalists, such as the one in the NUJ rule book.

The motion was carried on a show of hands.

The TUC shelved yesterday its plans to produce a pro-Labour Party daily newspaper in the face of a refusal by unions to provide sufficient funds to launch and sustain it.

The decision, taken "reluctantly" follows a feasibility study conducted by Lord McCarthy last year which concluded that unions could finance a national daily newspaper.

But the economic tide has forced the unions to economize and, after a survey of unions, the general council report to the congress yesterday concluded: "In the current economic conditions the replies received indicated that sufficient funds would not be forthcoming from affiliated unions to launch and sustain a new newspaper, nor would the sums promised provide the TUC with a credible base from which to seek outside finance and at the same time retain control over the ownership, structure and operation of any resulting publication."

The TUC's appreciation of the difficulties of establishing its own national daily newspaper takes place against a background of trouble in Fleet Street which underlines the problems any newspaper is likely to face.

However, the TUC went on to attack established proprietors, publications and policies and to demand the right to reply in the media. "It is quite wrong to make journalists and other media workers and scapegoats for the abuse of press power," Mr Aidan White, National Union of Journalists, said.

"What must be attacked if we are ever going to change the media, instead of just talking about it, is the structure that exists."

"In the press I would refer to this as the monopoly of the three Ms, Murdoch, Matthews and Maxwell. Rupert Murdoch has debased the standards of British journalism. He brought bludge to the Times. He has made The Sun a spiteful and poisonous caricature of a newspaper, which is frankly a laughing stock."

"Victor Matthews is a Tory lord whose Express group vies with the Daily Mail and the Daily Telegraph for the role of cheerleader for Thatcherism."

"Then, of course, there is Robert Maxwell, a so-called Labour supporter who is not beyond using Tory anti-union laws to bludgeon his staff. The last thing we need is a born-again Beaverbrook trying to sell newspapers by self-promotion and political interference in union affairs."

"They represent the greatest threat to press freedom. The right of reply is about curbing their power. These are people who need to be made accountable." Mr Alan Sapper, general secretary of the Association of Cinematograph, Television and Allied Technicians, said: "I think it is central to all that we believe in that if you are rubbish in the press or broadcasting you have the right to have that distortion speedily corrected and not just on the back page of a newspaper or on an L1.45 newscast on television, but in the same time-slot, the same space, and the same prominence."

## Services of public sector to be stressed

Public service workers had been singled out by the Government for special penalties in the recession handicap race, Ms Diana Warwick, General Secretary of the Association of University Teachers, said yesterday in moving a composite motion pledging the congress's support for public sector unions.

There was no visible opposition on a show of hands to a long motion deploring the Government's persistent designation of the public sector and its attempts to undermine public confidence in the contribution to society made by its workers.

The motion condemned overt government interference in free collective bargaining and the use of arbitrary cash limits to hold down pay increases below the cost of living and the general increase in wages.

It called on the general council to coordinate developments, minimize duplication in the establishment of the necessary review and to give all possible support to groups seeking freely negotiated pay settlements.

"Congress believes the period of this Government will be one of continuous attacks on the public sector. Recent decisions on rate capping and the abolition of metropolitan authorities further underline the Government's determination to continue its policies of cuts in necessary public spending."

In resisting the cuts, no service, industry, union, or local authority, should be left to fight alone, unions should cooperate in mounting a campaign to emphasize the importance of public sector services to the community.

The motion ended: "Congress supports public sector unions in resisting government attempts to depress wages of their members, to attack jobs by privatization schemes and unrealistic local government grants, and to deny basic democratic trade union rights to workers."

Ms Warwick said that there had been a frighteningly effective and invidious attack on public service workers. By the simple expedient of an arbitrary limit on the money available for pay the Government had almost broken the will to oppose by making loss of jobs the price of maintaining living standards.

The Government had said that the market should govern wage rates but how could that quantify the skill and dedication of teachers?

"We are beginning to win in the major task of convincing reasonable people that high levels of pay are justified, but in one area we are not winning. Comparability may be a useful weapon but it has not lessened the impact of the Government attack on the low paid."

By using temporary contracts, contracting out and by flagrant breaches of employment law the Government had corralled people into a stockade of low pay. They must unite to end that. They must have an agreed strategy if unions were to break out of the stranglehold of cash limits, Ms Warwick said.

Seconding, Mr Peter Davies, general secretary, Society of Telecom Executives, said the Government would abuse the loyalty of health workers, council workers and BT staff, but was frightened of a united trade union movement. They had nothing to be frightened of and should show they were ready for reasoned argument, but also for the alternative.

Mr Fred Smithers, general secretary, National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers, said that refusal to pay the rate for the job of a teacher, like any other employee, became increasingly demoralized if they had to stay in the job and sooner or later the supply of good quality recruits dried up.

Sir Keith Joseph's American counterparts had learnt that. There was no shortage of recruits in Britain, but it was inevitable that a shortage of teachers would develop. It would not be easily removed.

Mr William Deal, Fire Brigades Union, said the motion was an attempt to protect pay and secure jobs. The Government's measures, including rate capping and abolition of the metropolitan counties, had put their backs to the wall.

The union would say that the first redundant fireman would bring it out on strike, but if the firemen were alone and won, every fireman's job would cost the job of a teacher or a dustman. Firemen needed the teachers and the dustmen.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary National Union of Teachers, said teachers' work had never been more stressful or demanding. Without their dedication the system would collapse.

Few teachers would be happy at the outcome of their pay arbitration. It did not meet their just claim for relatively fair pay. Teachers were not the most untalented of professionals but Mrs Thatcher, Sir Keith Joseph and the pay award chairman had done more in the past six months to unite them than had been achieved in years.

Mr Michael Perkins, Society of Civil and Public Servants, said the main method of controlling public expenditure had been cash limits, but someone in the Treasury had the bright idea of stepping up pension contributions.

Public service unions must begin immediately to build a coordinated campaign against cash limits, so national pay negotiations could start.

The motion was agreed to.

## Commentary



Geoffrey Smith

A year ago we all left the TUC at Blackpool talking of the new realism evident in the trade union movement. We shall be leaving Brighton today talking of the new realities facing the trade union movement.

The miners' strike has dominated the week. But more significant than all the rumours and counter-rumours of talks-on or talks-off has been the way in which the dispute has directly or indirectly drawn attention to those deeper realities.

The most important of them is that trade unions can no longer afford to take their members for granted. The days have gone when the union bosses could tell their members to strike and automatically be obeyed.

The NUM has not been able to bring all its own members out in support of its own strike. The Transport and General Workers Union, the creation of Ernest Bevin, the most powerful figure in the history of British trade unionism, has not been strong enough to impose a comprehensive national dock strike. The TUC has promised a level of support for the miners which most union leaders know it cannot deliver. Or rather it has appeared to promise, without actually quite promising, that support.

These developments point both to the weakening of control by national trade union leaders and to a decline in the sense of solidarity between one group of workers and another. Dockers, steelworkers, and electricians do not identify with the miners in their dispute.

I do not believe that this is an isolated episode brought about either by revisionism at Mr Scargill or the Government's compelling logic. These trade union attitudes reflect changes in society at large. There is a tendency towards compartmentalization. My problem is not your problem unless it impinges on you as well.

This trend may not be welcome in other respects. It may imply a narrowing of sympathy, a restriction of generosity. But these changes are facts to which the trade unions must respond if they are not to lose still more members and influence.

The growing diversity within unions and between unions presents a challenge both to the national leadership of individual unions and to the central direction of the trade union movement as a whole. The case for unions being more closely in touch with the views of their members becomes not just a pleasing principle or an agreeable theory but a practical necessity.

British trade union movement has historically had weak central direction compared with its counterparts in a number of other countries. Power has tended to lie with a few big individual unions rather than with the TUC. A broader cohesion has depended upon one or two union leaders exercising their personal dominance over the movement or upon the influence of the TUC general secretary.

The role of a court jester

I do not see any immediate prospect of another dominating duo like Jones and Scanlon, which throws a still greater responsibility upon Mr Norman Willis, who takes over today from Mr Len Murray as general secretary.

I have been struck by how many senior union figures, including a number who voted for him, have little confidence in Mr Willis. He is dogged by his reputation as a joker. I see his adoption of the role of court jester as a sensitive and intelligent man who has had to spend his career adjusting to superior power, as personal aide or deputy to such strong personalities as Mr Frank Cousins, Mr Jack Jones and latterly Mr Murray himself.

It will be fair to judge him only on his performance now that he has power. But he will need to show very quickly that he is to be taken seriously.

It is important for the movement that he should establish himself, because it needs to have its thinking focused on how to operate in the new conditions. It has to show that it can still serve the interests of its members now that its industrial power has been limited, there is a government which does not regard broad economic policy as negotiable, and the very structure of industry is changing rapidly and must continue to change.

## Decision to sell warship yards hypocritical, says union chief

The congress carried unanimously on a show of hands an emergency motion condemning the government decision to privatize the five British shipbuilders' warship yards. It also called on the congress to resolve the Labour Party would develop a strong, positive policy for recovery and restoration of a full state-owned shipbuilding industry "rescued from the ravages of Tory policy."

The motion said the decision to sell off the most profitable parts of British Shipbuilders would seriously undermine its finances, lessen its ability to compete in world markets, and threaten thousands of shipbuilding jobs.

Mr Jim McFall, of the General Municipal, Boilermakers, and Allied Trades Union, moving the motion, said that the decision to sell the warship yards to the highest bidder revealed the hypocrisy of the Government, which believed in strong defence and which pretended to want nationalized industries to be efficient.

The Government shed crocodile tears over the unemployment figures and the deprived regions. It was putting on the line not only shipyard workers' jobs but also the jobs of those who depended on the shipyards.

It was deliberately and ruthlessly destroying any hope of British Shipbuilders operating economi-

cally. The announcement to sell the yards seemed to show that the Government wished to destroy the whole nationalized shipbuilding industry.

The decision to end the central training effort at British Shipbuilders was hypocritical, too. The Government purported to believe that a skilled workforce was needed.

Industrial action against government interference in local democracy was agreed by delegates after they were told that some of it might involve breaking the law.

Mr Mike Bick, National and Local Government Officers' Association, made the point when he said there would be a statutory obligation on local government staff to co-operate in the demise of their own local authorities. Mr Bick was moving his union's resolution reaffirming the congress's outright opposition to the Government's attempts to dismantle local democracy and local services.

The motion declared abhorrence for the rate limitation proposals and spending levels of local authorities and for what it called the Government's "crude attempt" to prevent elections for the metropolitan authorities and the Greater London Council, leading to their abolition.

The motion, which was passed

unanimously, called on the congress to help in resisting the Government's proposals and pledged support for affiliated unions which, having involved the general council, took official industrial action to defend jobs and services in local authorities.

Mr Bick said the Government had gone into the "Goebbels technique" of the big lie, painting a picture of inaction in local government as a drain on the nation's resources and of money running out of control because of bare-brained projects.

Local government spending, in fact, was going down and had dropped in real terms by 24 per cent since the Government took office.

Mr Arthur Capella, GLC Staff Association, seconding the motion, said that it was a lie to be offering to the Government's consultation paper, redundancies would come close to that figure among support staff of ILGA and white-collar and blue-collar staff of the GLC alone if the Government had its way.

Abolition would be delayed by lack of cooperation. That was not just about jobs and the destruction of local authorities but fundamentally about the destruction of democracy.

## NUM victory 'step to sane energy policy'

Victory for the miners was a step towards a sane, safe and cheap energy policy, Mr Gary Craig, of the National Union of Public Employees, said yesterday in moving a motion to support the union's opposition to the use of nuclear power. Mr Craig said the commitment of the Government to nuclear power was the other side of the coin from its attack on the miners.

"If the coal industry is effectively destroyed we will face a future almost totally dependent on the nuclear power industry," he said. "We won't stand a chance of a balanced energy policy in this country."

Mr Craig made his point as the congress endorsed the work of the TUC's fuel and power industries committee.

The congress carried on a show of hands a motion expressing concern at the level of risk in the National Health Service, both as an employer and as a provider of services.

It criticized the poor training and professional facilities for many ethnic minority health workers and their repatriation, whether by immigration rules or by professional registration or by post-training procedures.

The congress also condemned the lack of interpreter services and of religious or dietary practices of ethnic minority patients.

Dr Dipak Ray, the Association of Scientific Technicians and Managerial Staff, moving the motion, said on racial harassment that the GLC's anti-racist year had done more for the health of immigrants than 10,000 victims.

Many newer foreign exchange bureaux were "ripping off" foreign tourists, delegates were told.

Mr Richard Rosser, Transport and Salaried Staffs' Association, said these money shops, particularly in London, were high street muggers. They had sprung up since 1979, when it became possible to open exchange bureaux without a licence. The newcomers had prompted many complaints, mostly because of high commissions of up to 9 per cent on currency purchases - compared to 1 per cent charged by clearing banks.

Mr Rosser moved a resolution calling for licensing and expressing alarm at the damage the shops did to Britain's reputation in international tourism. The motion, carried unanimously on a show of hands, described the commission rates as exorbitant.

## Building campaign called for

There should be a sustained trade union campaign for increased public investment in construction, on retaining direct employment and building workers rather than self-employment, and on genuinely fair competition between local authority departments and private contractors.

That was urged by Mr Albert Williams, Union Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians, when he moved a motion to that effect which later was carried unanimously.

He said that increasing construction work would increase the amount of work for other, related, industries. There was an urgent need for a big civil engineering project after the Thames barrier; the Channel tunnel was the obvious one.

The worst effects of the water shortage could have been avoided if the Government has learnt the lessons of 1976 and invested in the supply industry. There has been no shortage of water - only a shortage of pipes.

The combined results of government measures had pushed unemployment in building above 500,000 for the first time.

Despite opposition from the National and Local Government Officers' Association, a motion opposing regulation of shop opening hours was carried on a show of hands.

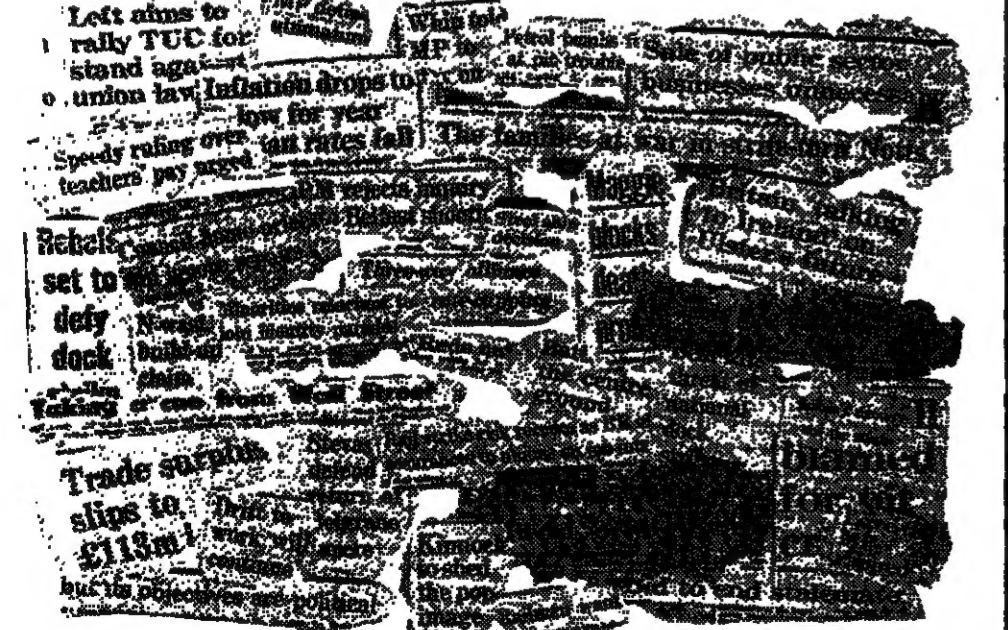
The motion, tabled by the Union Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, also rejected the Government's "implied intention" to renege on the wages council system.

Mr John Flood, USDAW, moving the motion, said that many of the congress might fancy the idea of shopping whenever they liked, at any time of day on any day of the week, topping up the larder and buying his and pieces for DIY projects.

The motion was not just about restricting the sale of certain goods at certain times, but about protecting people who worked in the retail trade.

## Business today

The congress ends today with the adoption of the general council's report, including items on the 150th anniversary of the Tolpuddle Martyrs and tributes to the retiring general secretary, Mr Len Murray. It is hoped to include some motions squeezed out of the timetable this week.



## "A week is a long time in politics."

By Harold Wilson



## A Week in Politics lasts 45 minutes.

Back on Friday 7th Sept. 8pm. 4

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## Acid rain report

## 'Appalled' MPs demand pollution control

By John Young

The Commons environment committee is "deeply disturbed" by Britain's policy on acid rain and "appalled" by lack of monitoring of the damage done to buildings by corrosion.

The absence of serious research has been "a major failure", and evidence given by the Central Electricity Generating Board seemed "trite and evasive", the MPs say in a report published yesterday.

Britain's policy appears to be that the case for controls is not proven and that those controls which have been approved are not cost-effective, the report says.

"We firmly believe that the Government's present position pays too little heed to the weight of scientific evidence in Britain and in Europe that sulphur dioxide, nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons emissions are separately and in conjunction destructive to any natural and built environments", it says.

"That position is accelerating the destruction of our cathedrals. It is destroying fish life. It is placing many of our most outstandingly beautiful areas at quite unacceptable risk. Controls must be introduced as soon as possible."

The United Kingdom has become increasingly isolated by its refusal to legislate to reduce sulphur and nitrous oxide emissions, the report says. It acknowledges that the Government, in parliamentary answers and in response to invitations join those countries committed to a 30 per cent reduction in sulphur dioxide emissions between 1980 and 1993, has rightly cited the fact that emissions in the United Kingdom have fallen by 37 per cent since 1970.

"However, in 1970 the United Kingdom was, and in 1984 still is, the largest producer of sulphur dioxide in Western Europe."

The CEGB, although the biggest burner of oil and coal in

Britain, has made practically no reduction in its emissions. By building tall smokestacks it has lessened the pollution close to power stations but has caused it to be transported over long distances to ecologically sensitive rural areas.

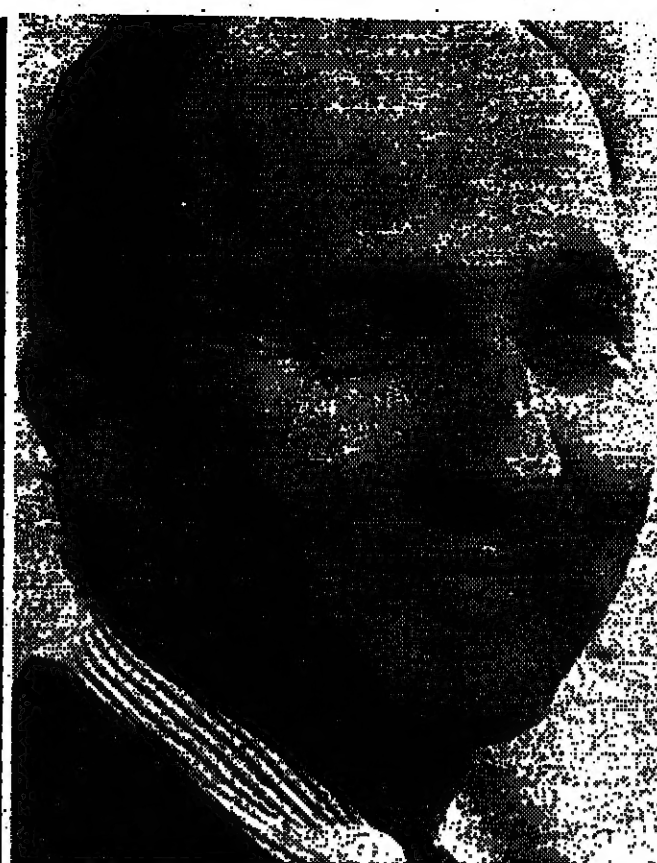
Britain is the principal foreign depositor of sulphur dioxide in Scandinavia, the report asserts. By 1990 it will be the biggest single polluter of Swedish forests and lakes, and already it deposits 50 per cent more in Norway than any other country.

The fact that ozone has emerged as one of the primary suspects for tree damage in German forests was cited by the CEGB and by motor manufacturers as a reason for not controlling its emissions, the report observes.

"We are unsure whether this was the product of ignorance or a deliberate attempt to mislead us," it says. "Ozone pollution is the consequence of nitrous oxides and hydrocarbons. No significant reductions have been taken to control emissions and no significant reductions have been recorded in the United Kingdom, the MPs say.

The committee, which heard evidence from government departments and quangos, local authorities, industry, scientists, water authorities, environmental groups, trade unions, doctors, farmers, architects and surveyors, concentrates primarily on damage to buildings and vegetation and on the increasing acidification of lakes and rivers. Among the buildings damaged by acid rain, it claims, are Westminster Abbey, Lincoln Cathedral, York Minster, St. Paul's Cathedral and the Palace of Westminster.

Acid Rain. Fourth Report from the House of Commons Environment Committee (Stationery Office, £5.55). Leading article, page 13



M Fabius: Technocrat capable of showing emotion

## Prime Minister passes TV test

## Plain-speaking Fabius presses ahead with austerity policy

From Diana Geddes

M Laurent Fabius, France's youngest Prime Minister for more than 100 years, appears to have passed with flying colours his first big public test since taking office seven weeks ago. His performance during an hour-and-a-half's grilling by senior journalists on television on Wednesday night seems to have delighted most of the Government's supporters and upset its foes.

There was no high-flown language, no brilliant attacks on the Opposition, no glittering promises, no dramatic surprises, not even any soothing words about an imminent light at the end of the tunnel of the economic crisis. But M Fabius gave the disillusioned French public what they now apparently want more than anything else — the truth, even if it was not, perhaps, always the whole truth.

He spoke with a sincerity, clarity and even a certain hesitant humility that is rare among politicians. The brilliant technocrat, who has been accused of cold aloofness, showed he was capable of talking in simple, everyday language, without being condescending or simplistic, and that he could feel as emotional as the next man over things such as people losing their jobs, seeing striking car workers being bashed over the head by the police.

He also had ideas, notably on North Africa of the new treaty of union between Morocco and Libya, he said. France's policy in the area remained unchanged.

On Chad, M Mitterrand indicated that France had no need for a mediator when the situation was so simple: France would leave the moment all foreign troops had withdrawn, he said, without actually mentioning Libya by name.

the severest problem facing the Government, rising unemployment. He had no miracle recipes, but he proposed to make a five-pronged attack on that "cancer", including an ambitious plan to ensure that very young person under 21 was

relaxation in the Government's programme of economic austerity. Despite the promised 5 per cent cut next year most people would continue to suffer a slight fall in their standard of living, he admitted, though the worst-off would be protected.

The Socialists believed in greater social justice and equality of opportunity, but hard work and merit should not go unrewarded, M Fabius said. That was why the Government had decided to reduce taxes equally for everyone, including the rich. It had also decided to abolish the surtax on top salaries from 1986.

With those views and policies, would he not properly be described as a "neoliberal" rather than as a socialist, he was asked. "Liberal" in France refers to someone on the right. Deliberately side-stepping the question for fear of offending any potential recruits on the moderate right, M Fabius replied in substance that the old right-left cleavage in politics was outdated.

In his view there were three distinct political groupings, not just two. There were those who believed in the state controlling everything; those who believed in a general free-for-all without any state interference; and those, including himself, who believed in an organized society which worked to reduce social inequalities. That last category he called "modern socialism".

M Fabius did not seek to minimize the tough or difficulty of the task of modernizing the economy, or the need to continue and even increase the effort required from everyone. There was no question of any

## Hongkong snag feared as deadline approaches

Peking (Reuters) — Britain and China appear to have hit a snag in negotiations on the future of Hongkong aimed at achieving an agreement by the end of the month on a handover of the colony.

After their regular two days of talks, the twenty-second round of formal negotiations between the two sides, they said yesterday another session would be held this month but did not set a date.

After two years they now have 24 days to settle remaining problems if they are to fulfil their announced intention of initialing an accord by the end of this month.

A joint statement described the talks as useful and constructive but the failure to set a date for the twenty-third round was highly unusual. In the past the sessions have been held every two weeks.

The British embassy declined to say whether the lack of a date meant the talks had run into difficulties.

But non-British Western diplomats said the fact a date had not been fixed showed there was still much to be done by a joint working group which is meeting daily behind the scenes to thrash out the remaining problems, including which passport residents will use. They said the next formal round would probably be scheduled only when the working group had settled whatever problems were outstanding.

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## Police improve ways of treating public

By Stewart Teggler

London police officers are to be trained to improve their handling of members of the public on a course which includes techniques such as self-awareness.

The course, already used for new recruits to the Metropolitan Police, was introduced after the Scarman inquiry into the Brixton riots in 1981.

Known as advanced skills training, the course is intended to improve interviewing techniques. Officers examine how situations are handled and are taught to respond with better judgment.

Southteck was devised by Mr Cive Hewitt, head of the learning resources department at Brighton Polytechnic, who saw the need for people to gain up-to-date knowledge in the changing world of computers and high technology. His project will provide training in such subjects as basic digital electronics, fruit finding and computer-aided design, packaged so people can learn at work or at home at their own pace.

It was launched by Mr David

## Heat detector can stop blasts in ships

By Michael Batty

An electronic device to combat explosions at sea and the mysterious disappearance of merchant ships has been developed by a London-based company.

Several hundred engine-room explosions occur each year, some believed to be the cause of unexplained loss of merchant ships at sea with all hands.

The new device, developed by Quality Monitoring Instruments, based in Hampstead, north London, gives early warning of an engine overheating and automatically slows it or stops it before a build-up of fuel mist causes an explosion.

The training packages will be devised by a staff of 30 at Southteck's headquarters in Brighton Polytechnic, with the help of outside specialists. Their average cost will be £40 to £45 a course and involve about 16 hours study. There will be no final qualifications, but students who sit a test will gain a certificate, proving they have completed the course.

## PROSPECTUS

1 National Savings Deposit Bonds (bonds) are Government securities issued by the Treasury under the National Loans Act 1968. They are governed by the National Savings Stock Regulations and are subject to the Statutory Regulations relating to the National Savings Stock Register for the time being in force: so far as these are applicable. The principal of, and interest on, bonds are a charge on the National Loans Fund.

**PURCHASE**  
2.1 Subject to a minimum purchase of £250 (see paragraph 3.1 a purchase may be made in multiples of £50. The date of purchase will for all purposes, be the date payment is received, with a completed application form, at the National Savings Deposit Bond Office, a Post Office transacting National Savings Bank business or such other place as the Director of Savings may specify.  
2.2 A certificate will be issued in respect of each purchase. This certificate will show the value of the bond and its date of purchase. This certificate will be replaced on each anniversary of the date of purchase, and on part repayment in accordance with paragraph 5.2, by a new certificate showing the updated value of the bond, including capitalised interest.

**MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM HOLDING LIMITS**  
3.1 No person may hold, either solely or jointly with any other person, less than £250 in any one bond or more than £50,000 in one or more bonds. The maximum holding limit will not prevent the capitalisation of interest under paragraph 4.3 but capitalised interest will count towards this limit if the holder wishes to purchase another bond. Bonds inherited from a deceased holder and interest on such bonds will not count towards the maximum limit. Bonds held by a person as trustee will not count towards the maximum which he may hold as trustee of a separate fund or which he or the beneficiary may hold in a personal capacity.  
3.2 The Treasury may vary the maximum and minimum holding limits and the minimum initial purchase from time to time, upon giving notice, but such a variation will not prejudice any right enjoyed by a bond holder immediately before the variation in respect of a bond then held by him.

**INTEREST**  
4.1 Interest will be calculated on a day to day basis from the date of purchase up to the date of redemption. Subject to paragraph 4.2 interest on a bond will be payable at a rate determined by the Treasury, which may be varied upon giving six weeks' notice.  
4.2 The rate of interest on a bond or part of a bond repaid before the first anniversary of the date of purchase will be half the rate determined by the Treasury in accordance with paragraph 4.1, unless repayment is made on the death of the sole bond holder.  
4.3 Interest on a bond will be capitalised on each anniversary of the date of purchase without deduction of income tax, but interest is subject to income

tax and must be included in any return of income made to the Inland Revenue in respect of the year in which it is capitalised.

**REPAYMENT**  
5.1 A holder must give three calendar months' notice of any application for repayment before redemption but no prior notice is required if application is made on the death of the sole bond holder. Any application for repayment of a bond must be made in writing to the National Savings Deposit Bond Office and be accompanied by the current investment certificate. The period of notice will be calculated from the date on which the application is received in the National Savings Deposit Bond Office.  
5.2 Application may be made in accordance with paragraph 5.1 for repayment of part of a bond, including capitalised interest, but the amount to be repaid must not be less than £50, or such other figure as the Treasury may determine from time to time upon giving notice. The balance of the bond remaining after repayment, excluding interest which has not been capitalised, must be not less than the minimum holding limit which was in force at the date of application. Where part of a bond has been repaid a new certificate will be issued and the remaining balance will be treated as having the same date of purchase as the original bond.  
5.3 Payments will be made by crossed warrant sent by post. For the purpose of determining the amount payable in respect of a bond the date of repayment will be treated as the date on the warrant.  
5.4 No payment will be made in respect of a bond held by a minor under the age of seven years, either solely or jointly with any other person, except with the consent of the Director of Savings.

**TRANSFERS**  
6 Bonds will not be transferable except with the consent of the Director of Savings. The Director of Savings will, for example, normally give consent in the case of devolution of bonds on the death of a holder but not to any proposed transfer which is by way of sale or for any consideration.  
**NOTICE**  
7 The Treasury will give any notice required under paragraph 3.2, 4.1 and 5.2 in the London, Edinburgh and Belfast Gazettes or in any manner which they think fit. If notice is given otherwise than in the Gazettes, it will as soon as reasonably possible thereafter be recorded in them.

**GUARANTEED LIFE OF BONDS**  
8 Each bond may be held for a guaranteed initial period of 10 years from the purchase date. Thereafter, interest will continue to be payable in accordance with paragraphs 4.1 and 4.3 until the redemption of the bond. The bond may be redeemed either at the end of the guaranteed initial period or on any date thereafter, in either case upon the giving of six months' notice by the Treasury. The Director of Savings will write to the holder before redemption, at his last recorded address, informing him of the date of redemption.

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Surname First names Mr/Mrs/Ms

Address

Postcode

Date of Birth Day Month Year

Note: If the bond is to be held jointly the names and addresses of all holders should be entered. The Investment Certificate and all correspondence will normally be sent to the first named holder (under 7 years old).

NAME AND ADDRESS TO WHICH DEPOSIT BOND SHOULD BE SENT (if different from first address above)

Name

Address

Postcode

Signature

Date

Note: If the bond is to be held jointly all the parties must sign above. Persons signing for children under 7 should also state relationship here.



## Chile tense after days of protest

From Florencia Varas Santiago

The Catholic Church is taking legal action against those responsible for the death of the French priest, André Jarlan, who was shot in the working class Santiago suburb of La Victoria, during two days of anti-government protests this week.

Witnesses, including several journalists, confirm that Father Jarlan must have been hit by a bullet fired by police at a group of people standing outside the priest's house. Father Jarlan was in his first floor bedroom.

The Minister of the Interior and the police have denied any part in the violence and have blamed the opposition parties, calling their leaders irresponsible for organizing the demonstrations.

The killing of the priest and censorship of the Catholic radio station, Radio Chilena, has created tension between the Government and the Church. The two days of protests were marked by violence, principally in the working-class areas surrounding Santiago. Eight people were killed.

A former Christian Democrat Senator, Señor Agustín Gumpu, told *The Times*: "There is a unanimous feeling that the only way of avoiding a civil war will be if the military, who have so far given their unconditional support to President Pinochet, realize what is happening. The events of last Tuesday and Wednesday are clear signs that Pinochet is seeking to become an absolute dictator."

## Reagan's ploy challenged

## Mondale warns of moral McCarthyism

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

Mr Mondale, the Democratic presidential candidate, yesterday gave a warning of a rise in "Moral McCarthyism" in the United States and challenged attempts by the Reagan Administration to make religion a political issue in the election.

Addressing the international convention of the B'nai B'rith, Mr Mondale accused the Reagan Administration of opening its arms to zealots on the "extreme fringe" who seek government power to impose their religious beliefs on others. He said that for the first time in 25 years of public life he felt it necessary to defend his faith in a political campaign. "I refuse to permit my political opponents to divert the debate from the real questions facing our future by questioning my faith, my patriotism, or my family values," he told a largely sympathetic audience.

Mr Mondale was responding to recent attacks on him by right-wing religious organizations which are campaigning in support of President Reagan. He was also attempting to challenge attempts by the Republican Party to pose as the party of patriotism, traditional values and belief in God.

The relationship between politics and religion has become a big issue in the election

campaign ever since President Reagan told a prayer meeting in Dallas two weeks ago that religion and politics were necessarily related and that anyone opposing voluntary school prayer was intolerant of religion.

On Wednesday leaders of leading religious groups issued a statement urging both parties to oppose any efforts by the Government to interfere with the separation of church and state.

Aware that his remarks about religion could produce a backlash among voters, President Reagan yesterday sought to play down the controversy. Appearing before the B'nai B'rith convention two hours after Mr Mondale, the President emphasized that the constitution ensured there would never be a state religion in the US and ensured that every American was free to choose.

● NO JOKE: President Reagan has admitted he should not have joked during a radio microphone test last month about ordering the bombing of the Soviet Union (AFP reports).

In a letter due to appear in the September 24 issue of *Forbes* magazine, Mr Reagan writes: "Granted, I shouldn't have said it, even though I was sure I was saying it only to the several people who know me well and with whom I work."

"The damage, if any, was due to the worldwide press dissemination."



Damp but undaunted: Mr Mondale and his running mate, Ms Geraldine Ferraro, during a rainy campaign rally in Portland, Oregon.

## Hitler diaries forger denies Nazi link

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Herr Konrad Kujan, the Nazi memorabilia dealer who has admitted forging the Hitler diaries, said on his last day of testimony at a Hamburg court that he had nothing to do with Nazism and had never belonged to any right-wing movement.

He said, however, that as a collector it was quite natural that he should try on the

uniforms he obtained, but that did not mean he supported the aims they represented.

Much of Herr Kujan's testimony yesterday and on Wednesday centred on attempts to make sense out of the chaotic financial records he kept in order to find out how much money he had received from Herr Gerd Heidemann, the former *Stern* magazine reporter jointly accused with Herr Kujan of fraud. Herr

Kujan said he has often been paid not only in cash but in uniforms and other memorabilia.

Tapes were produced in court which Herr Heidemann had made of his telephone conversations with Herr Kujan. The reporter had told him he needed the tapes to prove the authenticity of the diaries to contacts of Martin Bormann, Hitler's former secretary. The trial resumes on Tuesday.

## Philippines rejects aid offers for victims of typhoon

From Keith Dalton, Manila

The Philippine Government yesterday declined offers of international assistance to victims of a powerful typhoon which devastated central and southern provinces at the weekend.

Government radio and television reported 1,500 dead and widespread destruction. But a Foreign Ministry spokesman said the situation was under control with relief and rescue operations well advanced.

The Office of Civil Defence rejected assistance offered by the United Nations Disaster Relief Organisation and the French offer of the World Assistance Corps, saying that the Philippines could handle the rehabilitation work.

Bodies were still being dug out from beneath the rubble of houses and buildings, and bloated corpses were returned from coastal waters and rivers four days after Typhoon Ike hit the region.

Ike, whose winds reached 137 mph, was the strongest typhoon to strike the country in 14 years.

The trail of death and

destruction it left behind in a 36-hour rampage across seven main islands is believed to be the worst the Philippines has experienced since accurate typhoon records were kept.

Although the government figures exceed those compiled by a number of relief agencies, the Red Cross in Surigao del Norte, the worst-hit province on Mindanao island, estimated that at least one thousand people died in that province alone.

Scores of people were buried in mass graves on Monday when the provincial capital, Surigao, ran out of coffins.

At least 135 residents were killed when 90 per cent of the city's buildings and houses were totally or partially destroyed. Mr Rolando Geotina, the Governor, said.

The lakeside town of Mainit, 30 miles south of Surigao, was smashed when the lake broke its banks and giant waves crashed through houses killing 500, the Office of Civil Defence reported.

## Israelis set 45 free at Ansar

From Robert Fisk Beirut

The Israeli occupation Army in southern Lebanon reportedly released 45 Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners from the Ansar prison camp yesterday to mark the Eid holiday, the end of the Islamic pilgrimage to Mecca.

In an effort to improve embittered relations with local inhabitants - in an area where guerrilla attacks against Israeli troops still occur daily - the occupation authorities made a similar series of releases last year, with no marked effect on the security situation.

At least 770 prisoners are in Ansar, none of them legally charged, while an unknown

## Threat to put Ten in the dock

Brussels - The European Commission gave a warning yesterday that it could take the 10 EEC governments to court if they did not agree to let the cash-starved Community have more money this year (Ian Murray writes).

But the warning by Mr Christopher Tugendhat, the budget commissioner, at a special session of the Council of Ministers was somewhat hollow because the EEC's legal machinery moves so slowly a decision to start the case could not be taken for two months, by which time the community would have run short of money.

## Damascus trip

Damascus (AP) - President Khamenei of Iran and President Assad of Syria opened a series of meetings yesterday during the first visit here by an Iranian President. Mr Khamenei is accompanied by his Foreign Minister and top military officials.

## Berlin ban

Berlin (AFP) - The three Western powers in West Berlin Britain, France and the United States - yesterday banned the neo-Nazi (NPD) from taking part in elections on March 10, next year. The party is not banned in West Germany where it has never won more than 1 per cent of votes.

## Chinese haste

Peking (AP) - The Chinese Government yesterday confirmed that the Communist Party's general secretary, Mr Hu Yaobang, had disclosed plans for a Central Committee plenum in October, and a full national party congress next year when he spoke to a Japanese newspaper executive on Wednesday. The congress will be two years earlier than expected.

## Fela arrested

Lagos (AFP) - The Nigerian musician Fela Anikulupo-Kuti has been arrested at the airport here under Nigeria's strict exchange control laws for allegedly attempting to smuggle out the equipment of more than \$2,000. He was about to leave for a trip to the United States.

## Tourist killed

Rome (Reuters) - A Dutch tourist was killed and another people were injured by a double-killing robbery in a dark alley under the Capitoline Hill here.

## Ozal balks at separate Bonn deal on migrants

From Our Own Correspondent Bonn

Mr Ivor Ozal, the Turkish Prime Minister, yesterday appeared to rule out a bilateral agreement with Bonn to limit the number of Turkish workers entering West Germany after 1985.

Mr Ozal, ending a two-day official visit here yesterday, said the free movement of Turkish workers to West Germany was something that could be discussed only in the framework of the European Community. From January 1, 1986, Turkey's associate membership of the EEC will allow Turks to seek work anywhere in the Community.

Bonn is adamant that it will not allow any more Turks to join the 1,500,000 now in the country whose presence is stirring increasing controversy at a time of high unemployment.

The Kohl Government is committed to halving the total of 4,500,000 foreigners living in West Germany, and during an eight-month period from last November offered heads of families DM10,000 (about £2,600) each to return home, with additional payments for wives and children.

About 3,000,000 foreigners, mostly Turks, took advantage of the scheme, and whole areas of German cities have been left empty by the exodus.

In an attempt to induce Ankara to take steps to regulate any new migration to Germany, the Kohl Government has offered unprecedentedly generous credits and aid packages to Turkey.

They include a nuclear power station costing DM3bn, delivery of Airbus planes and a modern telephone system. Turkey receives more of Bonn's development aid than any other country except India, already.

Mr Ozal refused to comment on the controversial plans of Herr Friedrich Zimmermann, the Minister of the Interior, to reduce the maximum age at which foreign workers' children may join their parents in West Germany from 16 to six.

With a large number of Turkish opposition groups and exiles living in West Germany, there was a massive security cordon to protect Mr Ozal during his visit. Sharp protests against human rights abuses in Turkey were made by the Greens and Human rights groups.



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## Pretoria ministers inspect riot area

From Michael Hornsby  
Johannesburg

Three senior South African Cabinet ministers yesterday visited the riot-torn black township along the River Vaal, 40 miles south of Johannesburg, as negotiations continued between the residents and white government officials on the explosive issue of increased rents.

Violence in the Vaal Triangle area and in other townships on the East Rand, where rents seem to have provided the spark which caused educational and political grievances to burst into flame, has claimed at least 35 black lives in the past two weeks, and an unknown number of injured.

Mr Louis Le Grange, Minister of Law and Order, Mr F. W. de Klerk, Minister of the Interior, and Mr Gerrit Viljoen, Minister of National Education, made a helicopter tour of Sharpeville, Evaton and Sebokeng, the Vaal Triangle townships which saw the most serious unrest. The townships were reported to be more or less calm.

Discussions on the rent issue began on Wednesday between a Sharpeville delegation and officials of the Orange-Vaal Development Board after 3,000 of the township's residents confronted armed police and demanded to talk to the Government.



The ostensible cause of the rioting was the belief of the residents of Sharpeville and other townships in the area that a 5.90 rand (£3) rent increase had come into force on September 1. That provoked a stay-away from work and protest marches which turned violent when police tried to disperse them.

But because of a bureaucratic oversight, the rent increase had not been announced in time in the Government Gazette and had had to be postponed until October 1. No one, however, had bothered to inform the townships.

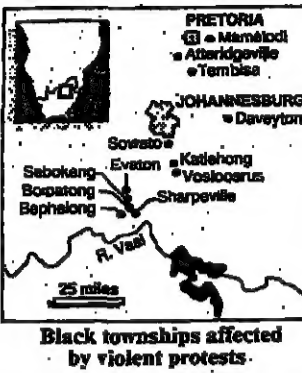
The rent increase, in any case, was only the final straw. Resentment over rents, which average between R50 and R70 a month, had been bubbling for a long time, against a background of sharp increases in fares and the basic foodstuffs which form a large percentage of black household budgets.

The Government argues that the increases in rents are needed to help to pay for sewers and electricity, which have been introduced only recently in many townships. Blacks say those are basic services which should have been provided long ago.

The Rev Frank Chikane, vice-president of the United Democratic Front, the multiracial anti-apartheid alliance which led the campaign to boycott the recent Indian and Coloured elections, said yesterday that police were hampering attempts by community groups to get medical aid and food into the Vaal townships.

The Vaal Civic Association and the Evaton Ratepayers' Association were experiencing "great difficulty" in moving around the townships and identifying and assisting distressed families.

Rent rally: Sharpeville people march in protest.



Black townships affected by violent protests.

## Nicaragua seeks debate on US at Security Council

From Alan Tomlinson, Managua

Nicaragua has requested an urgent debate in the United Nations Security Council on what it sees as the "dangerous escalation" of American involvement in attacks against it. The move comes after the admission by a group of Vietnam war veterans of their participation in an air raid on a Nicaraguan military installation.

The Sandinista Government is also referring the matter to the International Court of Justice in The Hague, which is already considering a complaint about the involvement of the CIA in the mining of Nicaraguan ports earlier this year.

A group of war veterans calling themselves Civilian Military Assistance told a press conference in Huntsville, Alabama, on Tuesday that the two Americans who died when a helicopter was shot down over a Nicaraguan army camp on Saturday had been taking part in an operation by CIA-funded counter-revolutionaries based in Honduras.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Minister, Miguel D'Escoto, said the Reagan Administration, particularly the CIA, must have known of their involvement yet had taken no action against the veterans.

"The US authorities have failed to institute criminal proceedings against an organization of individuals who, from their own account, have been involved in activities which imply clear violation certainly at least of national law, the

Neutrality Act of the United States", he said.

"It should be evident to everyone from the facts that have already surfaced that these activities could not have been carried out without the knowledge and consent of the CIA."

"Not only are these people able to leave the United States to come and murder our people but they are able to come and use CIA facilities in Honduras, bases, airfields and helicopters. This is something for which the US Government must be held accountable under a very well recognized principle of state responsibility."

"I think we have yet to see the full consequences of this incident. I believe we are coming close to the time when President Reagan will have to learn the hard way what he should have known a long time ago, that might does not make right."

Father D'Escoto said that once the identities of the two dead Americans had been made known by their organization, he had personally been in touch by telephone with their parents in Tennessee and Alabama, offering to repatriate their remains.

Both families said they had not been notified of events by the US authorities, which had also made no approach on the subject to the Managua Government. A spokesman for the US Embassy in Managua said an approach had been made.

At the Tuesday press conference the two Americans killed on Saturday were identified as Dana Parker, a Huntsville

## Meetings begin on Vatican ban

A Nicaraguan Government delegation which hopes to persuade the Vatican to relax a ban on three priests serving as ministers had talks yesterday with Archbishop Achille Silvestrini, Secretary of the Church's Council for Public Affairs. No information was given about the discussions except that they will continue today (John Earle reports from Rome). Also present was Mgr Pablo Antonio Vez, president of the Nicaraguan Bishop's Conference.

police detective on leave of absence, and James Postell of Memphis. Both were said to have been helicopter pilots in Vietnam.

● HUNTSVILLE: Two members of Civilian Military Assistance said here on Wednesday that they had received help from US embassies in Honduras and El Salvador in their efforts to provide military equipment to anti-communist forces in Central America (The New York Times reports).

Although Mr Thomas Povey and Mr Walton Blanton maintained that they were not associated with the US Government in any way and had received no money for their work, they said that US officials in El Salvador and Honduras had helped to put them in touch with the Chief of Staff of the Salvadorean armed forces and with Honduran military officers.

## 212 days in space

## Cosmonauts set endurance record

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Three Soviet cosmonauts yesterday established an endurance record in space after spending 212 days on the orbiting space station Salyut 7.

Mr Leonid Kizim, aged 43, Mr Vladimir Solov'yov, aged 37, and Dr Oleg Atkov, aged 35, have been in space since February 8 this year. The previous record for continuous space mission was held by two Soviet cosmonauts - Mr Anatoly Bereznev and Mr Valentin Lebedev - who spent 211 days on board the station in 1982.

The latest record is being hailed by Soviet officials as a triumph of Soviet technology. President Chernenko, making his first public appearance for seven weeks, spoke with evident feeling on Wednesday in the Kremlin of Soviet advances since Yuri Gagarin's pioneering space flight 23 years ago. He praised the "daring thinking" of Soviet scientists and the courage the cosmonauts on Salyut 7, whose flight was "another conspicuous landmark in mankind's unravelling of earthly and universal mysteries."

The Soviet leader was presenting medals to Miss Svetlana Savitskaya and two other cosmonauts who visited the three resident Salyut 7 cosmonauts in July.

The Salyut 7 mission has suffered setbacks, including a launchpad explosion and a fuel leak which damaged the station's manoeuvrability. But Mr Kizim, Mr Solov'yov and Dr Atkov have become adept at using space walks to repair faulty equipment. In July, Miss

Savitskaya became the world's first woman to walk in space, using a welding and cutting tool nicknamed "jaws". The Salyut 7 team made six space walks, which, President Chernenko remarked jokingly, were like regular strolls.

Salyut 7, launched in April, 1982, has become a giant orbiting complex, with unmanned Cosmos and Progress cargo craft attached to it.

The United States has concentrated on shuttle technology, and committed itself to the concept of permanent space stations only this year. Space experts say the Russians have now copied the American space shuttle while also going ahead with huge rockets designed to ferry a gigantic orbiting station into space in component parts.

Mr Chernenko noted on Wednesday that the experience of the Salyut 7 crew and the visiting Soyuz T12 team led by Commander Vladimir Dzhanibekov would be used to build "major orbiting stations to act not only as laboratories but also as space production workshops."

The Salyut 7 project has obvious military applications, according to Western experts, although Soviet officials insist the Soviet programme is purely peaceful and accuse the US of "militarizing" space. Talks on Star Wars weapons were due to open in Vienna this month but they are stalled.

The Salyut 7 crew did scientific experiments and geological surveys during their 212 days in space.



Space trio: Cosmonauts Vladimir Solov'yov (left), Leonid Kizim (centre) and Oleg Atkov facing the press

## Madrid hints at complete opening of Rock frontier

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

Spanish diplomats have said here they are hopeful that some "concrete results" on Gibraltar will emerge from a meeting between Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Señor Fernando Morán, his Spanish opposite number, at the United Nations General Assembly in New York at the end of this month.

The talks over Gibraltar, which have been going on quietly since last spring, have been making progress, they were looking forward to the possibility of a complete opening by Spain of the frontier between the Rock and La Línea later this year.

However, it was immediately clear here that Señor Morán, who ordered a limited opening of the frontier, benefiting chiefly Spain, in December, 1982, has not given up the hope of receiving something tangible in return from Britain for unrestricted passage to and from the Rock.

But Spain will have to open the frontier anyway, without

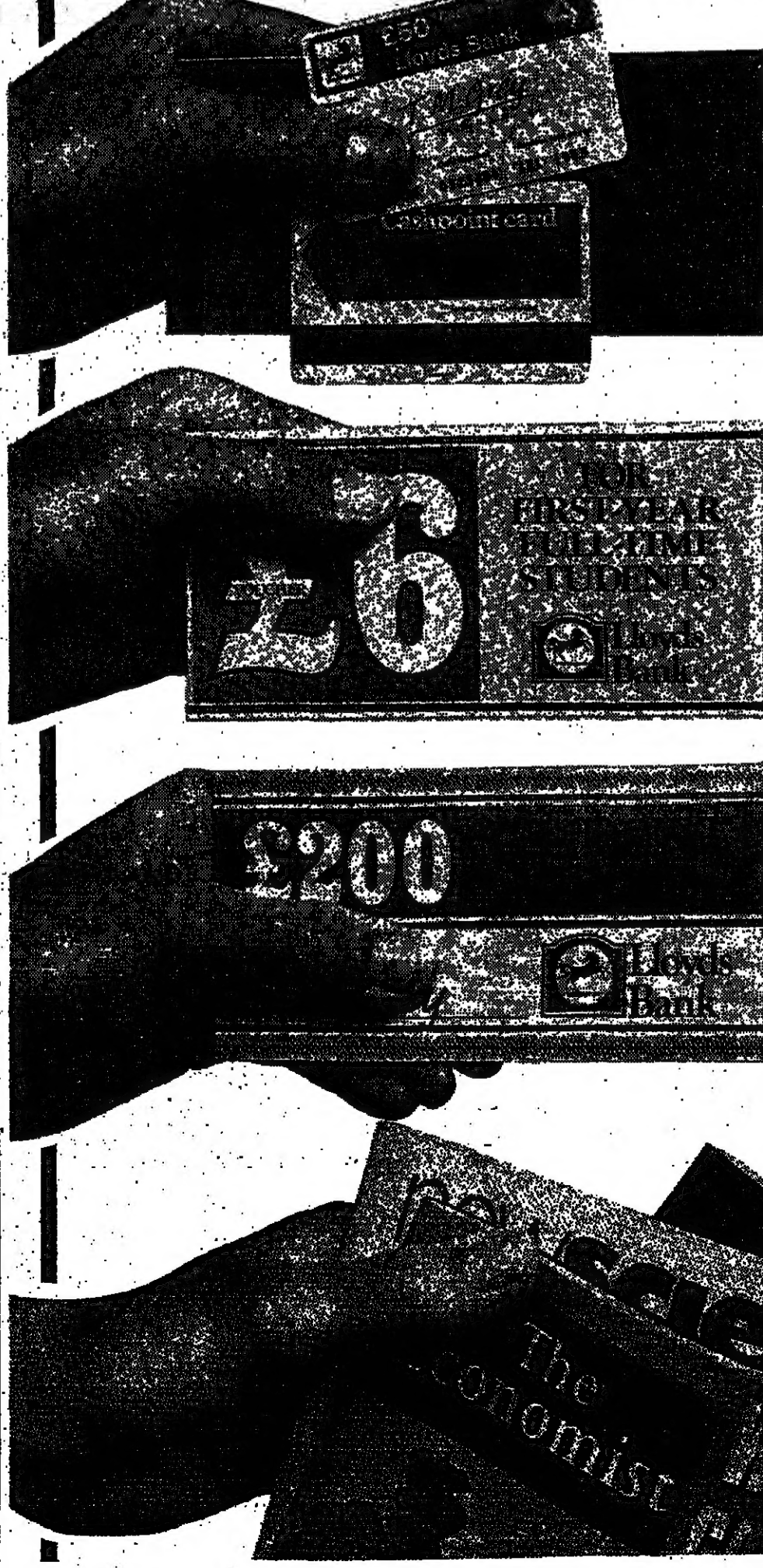
restrictions on joining the EEC, and Britain's view has always been that the sooner the last vestiges of Franco's 1969 blockade of Gibraltar are removed the better.

The Gibraltar issue is now increasingly involved with Spain's EEC entry negotiations, supposed this autumn to be in their concluding phase, and especially the issue of free movement of labour. The Community is thinking in terms of a seven-year transitional period, but Spain has asked for a review in five years. Countries such as West Germany are giving Madrid a dusty answer to that.

Last April, London proposed the implementation of EEC requirements in advance of joining, but Madrid rejected that idea.

● WHITEHALL HOPEFUL: The Madrid reports have raised hopes in Whitehall that Spain is preparing to implement the 1980 Lisbon Agreement, which assures the full reopening of the Gibraltar frontier (Henry Stanhope writes).

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## City drained of its old vibrance

## A life lost in Odessa

Cosmopolitan Odessa, colourful Black Sea city of crime, dockside whores, salty sailors and Jewish shopkeepers and humourists. Not any more.

Ladies of the night do haunt the hard-currency bars, and Soviet thrillers about the KGB still tend to depict corrupt underworld villains living in luxury in Odessa. But there is no sign of the Bohemian cafe frequented once by the celebrated comic writing duo, ILF and Petrov.

The cafe name has been retained, but the premises have moved, and the place is a run-of-the-mill Soviet cafeteria. No streets are named after Odessa gangster Benya Krik, or after ILF and Petrov, inventors of the roguish con man Ostap Bender. All the places seem to be named after St. Taras Shevchenko, a Soviet-approved founder of Ukrainian culture (Odessa is now part of the Ukraine, largely an administrative convenience).

No doubt the old Odessa had its drawbacks, such as the loving restriction of eighteenth and nineteenth-century limestone buildings, including the London Hotel overlooking the sea.

There is more street life than in most Soviet cities, with shoppers strolling along airy, and pausing at stalls or ice cream kiosks. Fruit seems plentiful.

There are good beaches at Arcadia, Odessa's contribution to the concept of the working class sanatorium belt (*Et in Arcadia ego* suddenly takes on



THE SOVIET SUN BELT

new meaning as a Marxist-Leninist slogan), and at the resort of Lazurnyia, also known rather disconcertingly as Kemping [camping].

The port bustles, with a thriving new cargo terminal at Yuzhni near by, constructed with Western help. The combined cargo turnover is 20 million tons a year, including grain, fertilizers and petrochemicals.

The main passenger harbour was rebuilt in 1936, the only drawback being the loss of one or two of the bottom-most Potemkin steps, the legendary flight of 192 steps on which the blood of Russian revolutionaries was spilled in 1905, but which are now cut off from the water by the terminal.

The Odessa Stock Exchange, once the beating heart of the city's commerce, is now used for pop concerts. The latest attraction this summer was a group called Bim Bom. Across the road is the delightfully baroque Stucco exterior of

the Krasnaya or Red Hotel, a name which predates the communist era.

There is also the music school which gave us Emil Gilels and David Oistrakh, and the magnificent Opera House, modelled on the Vienna Opera House and saved by partisans from Nazi destruction during wartime occupation. The communists, indeed, have restored a great deal of the Odessa the Nazis tore down.

What the Soviet authorities have not been able to restore is the vibrant Jewish life which once made Odessa a byword for Jewish humour and acumen.

Thousands of Jews perished under the Nazis, but there is a significant Jewish community left. They have one synagogue, but as I found when I set out by train and on foot to track it down one hot and dusty afternoon, the synagogue is "close for repairs". Its windows cracked and boarded up.

It is, in any case, in a semi-industrial area, next to a railway line, a forlorn sight. The official view is that Odessa's Jews, Armenians, Greeks, Ukrainians and Russians have all intermarried and are assimilated.

In the sense that all Odessans seem to have a Jewish sense of humour and love or wisecracks this is true. But the Jewish community which once produced the great Isaac Babel is none the less left without a focus for Jewish spiritual life.

Tomorrow: Bakhchisarai

Richard Owen

## Hirohito ends 400 years of bitterness

From David Watts  
Tokyo

Emperor Hirohito of Japan, speaking with a firmness and clarity that belied his 83 years, last night moved Japanese-Korean relations into an era of warmth unprecedented in almost 400 years.

In an historic and highly symbolic gesture, the Emperor sought to take the vitriol out of a relationship first soured in 1592 when Hideyoshi Toyotomi, the Japanese warlord, invaded Korea to give birth to one of the world's most bitter enmities.

At a banquet in the Imperial Palace, the Emperor's presence at the side of President Chun Doo Hwan of Korea was even more important than his words.

Recalling the earlier productive years of the sixth and seventh centuries, the Emperor said Japan had learnt a great deal from Korea. "Our two countries were thus bound by deep neighbourly relations over the ages," he added.

"In spite of such relations, it is indeed regrettable that there was an unfortunate past between us for a period in this century and I believe it should not be repeated again."

The form of words was vague, as befits an Emperor who must refrain from political statements. But the Koreans were pleased that the Emperor, who came to the throne 18 years after Japan annexed Korea and ruled throughout the brutal war period, acknowledged what they see as Japan's historic debt to Korea.

Although the Emperor is bound by strict rules of protocol, he went far to show the Korean leader the warmth



New era: President Chun and his wife being greeted by Emperor Hirohito in Tokyo yesterday.

of his feelings in their few public moments.

What the Emperor told President Chun in their private talks was not revealed. But from the arrangements for the visit, it is clear the Japanese want to bring the Emperor and the President together as much as possible to reflect something of the personal relationship Mr Yasuhiro Nakasone, the Japanese Prime Minister, has built up with the President.

Yesterday's first round of talks between Mr Nakasone and the President centred on the divided Korean peninsula. Mr Nakasone emphasized the need to bring North Korea out of isolation and so lessen tension, but President Chun urged caution in dealing with the north.

He asked Mr Nakasone to use Japan's diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union and China to try to contain North

Korea. Seoul has no diplomatic relations with either Moscow or Peking.

The massive police presence throughout Tokyo limited protests against the visit to a left-wing demonstration near Haneda airport as the President arrived. Two radicals were arrested and later a gas bomb was discharged in a car. The security operation is said to be costing 21m a day.

● BANGKOK - President Chun's trip to Japan is aimed at permanently dividing the Korean peninsula into "a springboard for United States aggression" against the socialist world, the Vietnamese Communist Party paper *Nhan Dan* said. It accused the United States of pressing President Chun and Mr Nakasone to settle their differences and forge a military alliance.

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## Mulroney landslide pulls Quebec into Conservative fold

From John Best, Ottawa

Mr Brian Mulroney, the Conservative leader who will soon be taking over as Canada's Prime Minister, has an historic opportunity to knit this often-divided country together.

Mr Mulroney returned to Ottawa on Wednesday night from his constituency in Manicouagan, Quebec, with the largest electoral majority in Canadian history. In his first federal general election on Tuesday he humiliated the long-reigning Liberals, winning 211 seats to their 40. The New Democratic Party finished third with 30 seats.

Mr Mulroney, a superb politician with charm to match his adroitness and unbounded ambition, played on and capitalized on all the Liberal weaknesses.

In the process he has accomplished the remarkable feat of making the Conservatives a truly national party for the first time in nearly a century.

He gave the party strength in predominantly French-speaking Quebec to complement its well established strength in the rest of Canada. The Quebec breakthrough was spectacular. From one seat four years ago the Tories climb to 58 seats this time. The Liberals won just 17 against the 74 seats they won in the last election.

The astonishing turnaround was reminiscent of the haul of 50 Quebec seats engineered by the late Tory Prime Minister, Mr John Diefenbaker, when he swept the country in 1958.

But that was strictly a matter of Quebec getting on a national bandwagon. Five years and two elections later, the Conservatives had relinquished all but eight of those seats to the Liberal Party, which maintains its long-term hold on the province by periodically electing French-Canadian leaders from Quebec. Mr Mulroney is the first Conservative leader from the province.

Mr Mulroney has the opportunity to make the rapprochement with Quebec more durable than Mr Diefenbaker could. Whereas Mr Diefenbaker was a westerner who did not understand Quebecers, much less speak their language, Mr Mulroney is a native-born Quebecer who was brought up in Baie Comeau, on the remote north shore of the St Lawrence river.

He is a member of the province's 20 per cent English-language minority, but speaks French as though it is his mother tongue. His ability to communicate with French-Canadians, individually or in crowds, is astonishing. It will not be easy to maintain unity in a swollen parliamentary caucus that has suddenly spawned 37 new Quebec MPs to compete for Cabinet posts to which party loyalists from English-speaking Canada might feel entitled.

But Mr Mulroney has shown a statesmanlike ability to stand above Canada's historic French-English division. For example he has spoken out in favour of official bilingualism in Manitoba, much to the chagrin of the province's overwhelming English-language majority.

He let it be known during the election campaign that he would try to substitute a friendly and cooperative relationship with Quebec's separatist Parti Quebecois government for the hostile relationship that prevailed under the Liberals.

How far he will be able to work with a regime that still, officially, advocates Quebec's separation from Canada remains to be seen. But it is perhaps significant that in his first comment on the election, Mr René Lévesque, the premier, said that the Conservative landslide had opened the prospect of a new era in federal-provincial relations and he said: "We are going to jump in."

### RESULTS BY PROVINCES

	1984	(1980)	1984	(1980)	1984	(1980)
Newfoundland	4	(2)	3	(5)	-	-
Prince Edward I	3	(2)	2	(2)	-	-
Nova Scotia	9	(9)	2	(9)	-	-
New Brunswick	9	(9)	1	(9)	-	-
Quebec	58	(1)	17	(74)	-	-
Ontario	67	(38)	14	(52)	13	-
Manitoba	9	(9)	1	(2)	4	-
Saskatchewan	9	(7)	-	-	-	-
Alberta	21	(1)	-	-	-	-
Brit Columbia	19	(15)	1	-	5	-
Yukon	1	(1)	-	-	-	-
Northwest Terr	2	(1)	-	-	-	-
	211	(103)	40	(147)	30	(32)

Plus: Ontario Independent 1 (-)

### Gay teachers threatened with dismissal

From Our Correspondent Melbourne

Teachers in Queensland who publicly declare that they are homosexuals will be dismissed by the state government.

The move by Mr Lin Powell, state Minister for Education, helps to reinforce the reputation of Queensland as Australia's most conservative state. It brought a strong protest from the Queensland teachers' union.

Mr Powell's move comes after recent court cases involving teachers convicted of sexually abusing students.

Mr Powell has a reputation for taking action against homosexual teachers: he banned Queensland teachers from attending last year's national conference of Lesbians and homosexuals in Melbourne.

### New inquiry on Sri Lanka's Chief Justice

From Our Correspondent Colombo

The Speaker of Parliament, Mr E. L. Senanayake, yesterday nominated a 10-member committee to inquire into and report on a resolution submitted to him on Wednesday by 57 MPs requesting the President to remove the Chief Justice, Mr Neville Samarakoon, from office.

The resolution refers to statements by the Chief Justice at an awards ceremony.

Mr Samarakoon had said that resentment had been building up not only against Tamil terrorists, but also against the establishment that has not taken proper action against them. "It is unfortunate that the means to an end was racial. If there was another way of doing it, it would have been done."



## THE ARTS

## Cinema

## Monotonous shriek in angry exile

**The Wall (18)**  
ICA; Phoenix East  
Finchley

**Unfaithfully Yours (15)**  
Studio Oxford Circus;  
Classic Tottenham  
Court Road

**This is Spinal Tap (15)**  
Electric Screen; Classic  
Oxford Circus

**The Hit (18)**  
Classic Haymarket

The Wall, first shown at Cannes last year, is the first film made by Yılmaz Güney since his escape from a Turkish prison in 1981 and subsequent refuge in the West. In a recent interview Güney speaks eloquently about the problems of exile. "The dough of my art consisted of the images of my people... the accumulated experience of my land and its soil. Today I am relatively free, but there is no public I can relate to, no characters I want to describe." Yet Güney inevitably carries his past experiences and fury with him. *The Wall* recreates a notorious revolt by child prisoners in Ankara, though for

practical purposes the prison walls belong to the Abbaye de Moulon in northern France, and the children come from immigrant families in West Germany and Paris. It is a difficult film to assess. We acknowledge the appalling facts and the human agony - the beatings, the deprivations - yet Güney's treatment is so subtle, so implacable, that the film seems something of a wall itself, defiantly plunked down before the audience. Hearts and consciences should be pricked, yet we sit there, bemused and staring.

*The Wall* not only shows Güney working in a strange land; he is also working without the associates who directed his detailed scripts during the years of imprisonment. Serif Günen, who supervised the overwhelming *Yol*, has since made a fascinating film, *Derman*, with an identical eye for landscape and a related emotional force. Güney's own camera, alas, falls prey to cliché (birds in flight prayers before a crescent moon) and never quite surmounts the artificial setting.

Most frustrating of all, Güney offers no dramatic variety: events unfold at a steady pitch and tempo, and promising incidents like the execution of two prisoners minutes before their supposed wedding are cut short to fit. This may be a deliberate tactic; Güney has spoken of softening the facts about Turkish prisons to avoid Western complaints of overstatement. But audiences need something to bite on. *The Wall*

only serves up the monotonous shriek of an extraordinary man, lost in exile with his memories and anger.

Remakes and sequels continue to spread through mainstream cinema like pernicious weeds, obliterating fresh air and stunting growth. Sequels at least pay short-term dividends at the box-office, but who benefited from *Breathless*, or *The Man Who Loved Women*? Hollywood's latest victim is Preston Sturges's 1948 comedy *Unfaithfully Yours* - not the very best work of this maverick figure, though it displays well enough his passion for voluble characters, for his high satire and low slapstick lassoed together in an intricate structure. The story of marital jealousy among the musical elite also displays social attitudes difficult to transpose to the Eighties: it would take an exceedingly prim contemporary artist to act like Othello at the slightest whiff of infidelity.

Dudley Moore - and the director Howard Zieff swallow Sturges's storyline anachronism included, but they wisely avoid matching his ornate style. Gone are lines like Edgar Kennedy's "I'm delicious over your Delius"; gone are the minute aural jokes like Rex Harrison pressing down hard on a plateful of dry sandwiches. Gone, too, is much of the structure. Where Harrison concocted three campaign plans while conducting his concert, Moore is content with one - murder - dreamed up during Tchaikovsky's Violin Concerto as the suspected lover (Armand

Assante) fiddles away alongside.

By setting his sights far lower than Sturges, Zieff at least ensures that he hits the chosen targets: modest slapstick, a little romance, and an ingenious vehicle for Dudley Moore. Early close-ups of baton mugging made me eye the exit door, but Moore's performance "takes flight" with the film. By the finale he battles with chess of drawers, lifts and mounting befuddlement with the skill and relish of a silent cinema clown. Nastassia Kinski's comedy debut, however, cannot be considered auspicious: as the innocent Italian wife, she flounders about in an ugly whirlwind of ethnic gestures.

This is *Spinal Tap* bears the subtitle "A rockumentary by Mary Dillberry". Fortunately Dillberry is entirely fictional, along with *Spinal Tap*, a veteran English rock band of minuscule talent who set out to conquer America with their heavy metal album *Smell the Glove*. This delightful spoof of rock documentaries comes from a talented team of writer-actors experienced in the wider reaches of American comedy. DiBergi is played by the film's true director Rob Reiner (son of Carl), though the comic spotlight naturally falls on the accident-prone band itself - particularly Christopher Guest's lugubrious, shaggy-haired Nigel Tufnel. The subject is parodied with loopy humour, a sharp eye for pretensions and - most important of all - a great flair for detail. Artwork for the albums *Shark Sandwich* and



Surly, implacable treatment within the prison of *The Wall*

*Intervenus de Milo*, the fuzzy BBC clip from 1963, the crass song-lyrics: all seem exactly, and wickedly, right.

Mother's Pride on the breakfast table; solemn talk about Beavers Road, East Dulwich; in its opening moments *The Hit* appears indubitably British. But then comes the legend "Ten years later". We cut to Spain, and the leisurely development of a playful thriller about a botched contract killing, directed by Stephen Frears. He seems to have something on

television every month, but this is the first cinema venture since the amiable *Gumshoe*, 13 years ago.

For all its flaws, *The Hit* sits happily on a large screen, which cannot be said about every offering from the British renaissance. The images are expansive, carefully exploiting the dusty roads, windmills and wayside cafes for dramatic effect. The storyline, too, is of the teasing kind that needs a large audience to enjoy the twists and bridge the gaps

between peaks with communal goodwill. The actors themselves bridge a few (Terence Stamp as the philosophical informer facing his comeuppance; John Hurt as the grimacing hit man; Laura del Sol, from Saura's *Carmen*, as a sultry housewife with ferocious teeth). But the silly dialogue of Peter Prince does them all less than justice; ultimately, both laughs and thrills are too slight for comfort in a film designed for a good night out.

Geoff Brown

Television  
Robustly credible

Listening to Ronnie Barker's Welsh accent in his new comedy series, *The Magnificent Evans* (BBC1), is a rich and relaxing sensation. The Evans of the title, whose forename is Plantagenet, is a flamboyantly eccentric photographer in a small Welsh village; his talent for tactlessness, we discovered last night, limited his success in this vocation, so Plantagenet-made ends meet by dealing in bribe-bribe.

*The Magnificent Evans* is written by Roy Clarke, who created the enormously successful series *The Last of the Summer Wine*, and also Ronnie Barker's previous role as a comedy actor, the corner shop-keeper in *Open All Hours*. Clarke has a gift for making his eccentric creations robustly credible, and Plantagenet Evans, on his debut, seemed as lifelike as any of them.

The majority of British comedy series succeed by evoking a bygone age or by portraying bemused middle-aged characters constantly mourning the passing of a bygone age. (It is no surprise that television's lost generation is the one between 13 and 25.) *The Magnificent Evans* at first looked like a period piece, since our hero drives a very imposing, vintage car and lives in one of those untouched Victorian terraces. On careful examination, however, it proved to be set in the present.

The series appeals to the perpetual childhood of its audience, relying on a combination of smutty-mindedness and innocence to raise laughs from the connotations of the word "experience". For example, a major theme is the discomfort of Evans's girlfriend, played with presence by Sharon Morgan, who wants him to marry her. At present she is living with him, although she pretends otherwise by strategically like asking for their chips to be "wrapped separately at the butcher's shop. She has been given a sweater evocative of Lana Turner and a mini-skirt to wear with her black stockings in order to underline the silliness of her aspirations to respectability.

Roy Clarke's script was full of typically fresh, idiosyncratic wit. All of which, of course, is a Welsh accent, and *The Magnificent Evans* gave every promise of fulfilling its title as the series develops.

Celia Brayfield

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Hilary Finch meets Stefanos Lazaridis (right), designer of the English premiere production of Janáček's *Osud* which opens at the Coliseum tomorrow

## Under the metaphor

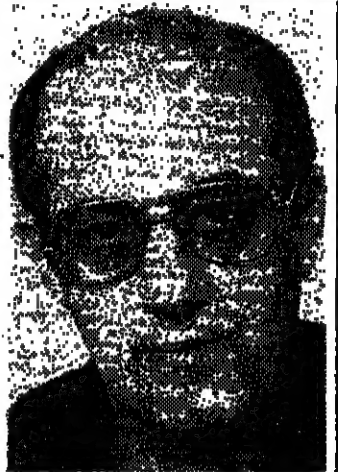
Destiny has turned full-circle for *Osud* (Fate), the strange semi-autobiographical opera which Janáček wrote after *Jenůfa*. Never performed in Janáček's lifetime, and mangled and rearranged during its short European performing history, it will be seen for the first time in England tomorrow, on a revolving stage at the Coliseum. Its time-teasing streams of consciousness provide a startling new challenge not only for David Pountney, directing, but also for the designer, Stefanos Lazaridis in a season in which he is responsible for the visual realization of no fewer than six English National Opera productions.

"*Osud* is such a private work. I sometimes think Janáček wrote it only for himself. It's about the exposure of an artist and his angst. It's an internal explosion from a tiny capsule." And the means Lazaridis has found to handle the explosion, with all its fluidity, its fragmen-

tation and shifting focuses, has ended up exposing, too, the very mind and methods of a stage designer. Externally, the proscenium goes, the apparatus shows. And internally? *Osud*, for Lazaridis, is like any opera, a musical journey with imagery supplied in such a way as to give the spectator the freedom to respond to it according to his or her own instinct and logic.

Lazaridis is consistently lucid and articulate about the designer's role and *raison d'être*. But in practice, the vocabulary of which he speaks can provide, as was the case in his white nursery psychodrama for *Rusalka*, a very neatly tied interpretive package. However, beguilingly, its contents, it surely leaves the spectator's imagination precious little room for manoeuvre.

"*Rusalka* was perhaps a little bit too complete. But do you leave the piece to speak for itself through the music, or do you go



under the skin, under the metaphor? That is the perennial dilemma. And at the moment - and since working with Pountney and Lyubimov - I am tempted to go under the metaphor.

Going under the metaphor inevitably involves casting up further images. In a house where economic necessity is the deliberately adopted mother of new invention, Lazaridis is a master of both mental and physical recycling. *The Flying Dutchman*'s central revolve becomes in *Osud* a carousel, a treadmill, an instrument of torture; impediments from previous "vocabularies" scatter over the stage like building blocks. Is he afraid of the danger of cliché, even of obstructive recall inherent in his approach?

"The reshuffling of one's vocabulary according to the work concerned instantly changes the meaning of space. I'm afraid of exhausting that potential. If you think about *Rusalka* during *Osud*, that's your problem. Composers use their imagery over and over again. I could say I don't want to do *Osud* because I think it's a black and white show, and I don't want to do another black and white show. But if something feels absolutely right, you have to do it that way.

"The idea is right, and that's what's important. The focus will change of course - and for that reason I think one should constantly interfere with revivals. I hate revivals. They are like crippled children that are lumbered with. You have to look after them and they get worse all the time. We're still modifying *Duchman*: it's still not quite right - the focus needs tightening still more."

The next show on the road, though, will be another new production: *Madam Butterfly* with Graham Vick. "Vick's approach is a micro-biological one. He probes as if with a surgical knife and finds extraordinary details and nuances. I have to go into the director's mind each time, and with Graham our reactions were enmeshed right from the start. Whether it'll work or not is another question. Everything you expect in *Butterfly* is taken out; we're saturated with visual information anyway - and it's all in the music." So Lazaridis talks of *Butterfly*'s acute monomania, of a wardrobe department already rather worried about the quantities of mid-19th-century costumes.

And, after his *Midsummer Marriage* with Pountney, more theatre. At present Lazaridis is working on Lyubimov's English production for the Theatre of Europe which will come to England at the Almeida. He looks ahead, too, to the possibility of a *Jenůfa* with Lyubimov at Covent Garden. And further ahead still to a *Ring*. With whom? "I can't say. But here, in this country." And when? "Not yet. I've missed it. It should be done either with the arrogance of youth or the wisdom of age. I'll wait at least another ten years."

Hamlet  
Stratford

A forest of things to come appears in the first scene of Ron Daniels's production with the arrival of Nicholas Farrell as an exceptionally supercilious Horatio, pouring scorn on the guards' superstitions and then collapsing into gibbering amazement when the Ghost strides on. From that you expect more surprises from the Prince's companion. But not Mr Farrell has had his moment, and thereafter he subsides into familiar Horatian subservience apart from a momentary flash of the old spirit when he snatches Osric's hat and outdoes Hamlet in ridiculing the wretched messenger.

The production is full of apparently significant details that lead nowhere. Gertrude rejects Claudius at the end of the closet scene, only to resume her relationship afterwards. The Polonius family are introduced as great huggers, exceptionally attached to each other; but come the nursery scene and Frank Middlemass's Polonius treats his grief-stricken daughter with the usual indifference. A clue to the Prince himself seems to come in Roger Rees's despairing delivery of the "cursed, spite" speech; but when it comes down to setting

## Theatre

things right in Denmark, he is not noticeably feebler or more irresolute than other Hamlets.

The one element that does run through the show is a strong emphasis on the revenge plot and a determination to give all the principals the chance to display high passion. Frances Barber's Ophelia is a performance of great sweetness with no frustrated sexuality to unleash in the mad scene - has climactic moments when she boldly challenges Hamlet, or falls to the floor in paroxysms of harsh weeping. Even Virginia McKenna's irreproachably regal Gertrude, whom you expect to expire with a faint smile on the lips, summons up the power to shout aloud the king's guilt with her dying breath. Claudius himself sets the full demon-king treatment from Brian Blessed: a palpable bull-necked villain, affecting a jovial, chuckling manner which breaks down into roars of wrath and torment whenever exposed to pressure.

Staged in an atmosphere of gathering doom that owes more to Chris Ellis's lighting and Nigel Hensley's music (more of the RSC's current fondness for unaccompanied cello) than to the ballustrade and flanking staircases of Maria Bjornson's minimalist set, the production bespeaks more interest in its actors than in any coherent view of the play. It is indeed



Roger Rees: noble nature in poison grip

extremely well cast, and takes you back to the old days of the RSC in awarding the greatest role in the English-speaking repertoire to an actor who has made his way up through the company's ranks.

Hamlet is a part for which Roger Rees's long line of desperate, hysterical tragic-comic parts could have been a long-term preparation. When it comes to the point, he offers a haggard, hollow-eyed figure, impelled into movement and gesture by the language (often by a single word) and set on fire by ideas. It is as convincing a portrait as I have seen of a noble nature in the grip of some obscure poison. What it lacks, surprisingly, is any trace of Hamlet the comedian.

What comedy there is in the

performance - such as his impromptu re-enactment of the slaying of Caesar (brilliantly forecasting the actual murder of Polonius) - is contributed by the director. Otherwise, for all its speed and volatility of mood, you are never allowed to forget for long about his inner torment and breaking heart, as emphasized through an insistent tearful catch in the voice. Where he does confess to "towering passion", it is after a noticeably cold-blooded performance of the graveyard scene. And such is the comic deficiency that he virtually scuppers Sebastian Shaw's excellent performance as First Grave-digger.

There are some curious awkwardnesses in staging such as the presentation of the play scene downstage so as to conceal Claudius's face and direct the action away from him (though this scheme does allow Hamlet finally to invade the action and assume the murderer's crown as Claudius's double). Otherwise this strongly narrated but inconclusive event is to be recommended mainly for the commanding performances of the Ghost and the Player King (Richard Easton and Bernard Horsfall) and for the luxury casting of Kenneth Branagh as a fiery Laertes whose madness matches Hamlet's own.

Irving Wardle

## Music in London

**SCO/Maxwell  
Davies/Boettcher**  
Albert Hall/Radio 3

The recent music of Peter Maxwell Davies goes together well with Mozart. Both composers speak with an easy and beguiling fluency, and both appeal, possibly as a result, in equal parts to our intellectual and emotional responses. In *Into the Labyrinth*, given its premiere last year at the St Magnus Festival, Davies once more expresses in quite beautiful music the inner calm he has so obviously found. He has also devised an ingenious song-cycle which is a symphony as well as the central, predominantly slow movement of the "symphony of choirs", too, most obviously in the complex rhythms of the second section, a paean to the elements, while the fourth

expect, the work is inspired by the Orcaean landscape, but this is not so much a hymn to raw nature as a confrontation, through George Mackay Brown's magically evocative text, between the natural state and the real world - or is it? - of technology. Although the central figure of the text is ultimately tempted away by the wealth, science and knowledge put before him as the fifth of a series of propositions (the others are the traditional four elements), the implication is that life will return to the islands.

Davies's work, cast in a symmetrical five-movement pattern, is in part ritualistic, as the presentation of the elements as "doors" in the fourth section (*la Bartók*) would seem to require. There are medieval echoes, too, most obviously in the complex rhythms of the second section, a paean to the elements, while the fourth

section seems to fulfil the traditional role of sonata development. Aside from the organic feeling that pervades the whole work and the sheer poetry of the outer sections, which deal with the concepts of time and timelessness, what impresses most is Davies's unforced feeling for melody.

Under the composer's direction, the Scottish Chamber Orchestra, played with admirable commitment, though at times the strings did not seem entirely comfortable. Davies's music is always devilish to play, and the absence of percussion in this score only highlights the burden that falls upon other departments. The woodwind, and particularly the brass, had an excellent evening, as did the tenor soloist, Neil Mackie, though some softer contours and more variety of tone would have been welcome. They will surely come with the familiarity that this score deserves.

Under the guidance of Wilfried Boettcher in Mozart's "Haffner" Symphony, the orchestra sounded rather lazy, luxuriating in relaxed speeds and rounded phrasing. But when Alfred Brendel appeared to play the same composer's Piano Concerto in B flat, K.595, they were obliged to sharpen their responses in order to match his masterly instincts.

Stephen Pettitt

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Kantimirusik  
ICA

There are pastorals and pastorals *Acts and Galates* is one. *Down by the Greenwood Side* is another, but Mauricio Kagel's *Kantimirusik*, presented by Northern Music Theatre as part of the Musica series, must be the oddest of them all. A seven-piece ensemble, occasionally reminiscent of the acidic clarity of *The Soldier's Tale* but more often jangling with the banjo and guitar sounds of a half-heard popular idiom, twangs its way through eight sound portraits - an enigmatic waltz, a dislocated chorale - like dissociated echoes of country dance filtered through a contemporary sound system.

"But what does it all mean?", said Alice, and even her wide-eyed acceptance of the absurd might have been strained by the two-screen pictorial apparatus that Northern Music Theatre (with its habitual panache and originality) have extrapolated from Kagel's hints about staging the work. One curtain flies back to reveal singers' heads set against picture-postcard costumes of seaside fun and milkmaids at work, while another curtain lifts on a

toy-town countryside set with jerkily moving parts.

It all seemed to fall within the composer's notion of what his pastoral in pictures might amount to, but his wish for "slow but continuous transformations of landscape and typical rural impressions" suggested a rather quieter rate of change and a more relaxed sort of activity than this rather hectic little Noddy pageant.

If I say that the sound effects, with a specially prepared tape of moos, barks and periodically ear-splitting off-stage noises (including a storm that totally wiped out Kagel's brittle waltz), sounded way over the top, I shall doubtless be told that I missed the point.

But perhaps a touch more relaxation might make all the difference to the presentation: there were some biccups in the music, but under Graham Treacher's rhythmic control the nicest moments were deftly poised and the expected resolutions wittily side-stepped. Three singers worked hard to give Kagel's whimsical-poetical quirks a semblance of logic. David Saver directed; Nadine Baylis and Kate Kneale designed the show.

Nicholas Kenyon



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## SPECTRUM

# Greene: four score years and then?

moreover...  
Miles Kington

Played and  
Beaton by  
the camera

In Part Two of The Times' tribute to the life and work of Graham Greene, praise for his genius comes from the worlds of politics, literature and the universities. A private man, Greene, who is 80 on October 2, has rarely emerged from behind his mask of anonymity, yet his influence, as these tributes show, has been immense

## DUKE OF NORFOLK Leading Catholic layman

Not every gifted brain is embedded in a chuckling sense of humour which can see the funny side of even the dullest episodes. Graham's novels may well have been coloured by his incredible imagination, but when one knows of his endless urge to swan over the world and sample every person and experience, they are no more than spicy autobiographies.

Anyhow, this generation will always enjoy them, because we are jealous that we have not had his fortunate luck in leading such a life, and our children's children will surely read them to learn how we have all behaved.

There may be many subtleties in how he puts the novels together - by writing the last bit first or turning the middle upside-down - but you will agree that when you have started to read one, you do not want to cheat by looking at the last chapter first, and you are sad when you do reach it and it is the end.

## ANGUS WILSON Novelist

It was 1938. A time when we all needed painful truths that would stick. Did not want easy answers that would fade after they had jogged us along a little. We all needed a confirmation of the civil forces that were manifesting themselves. Needed to realize, and more important to feel, something deeper than just right or wrong, good guys and rotten eggs.

The world of that big - both hearted and breasted - decent, sensible, no-nonsense woman, Ida Arnold, was not going to be enough. Ida it was. I think, that first gave me the sense that Graham Greene's novels had a depth that was unknown to the novel of that day which was also a good story.

Rose, it is true, was a moving martyr; Pinky, irredeemably evil. But the insufficiency of Ida's no-nonsense good sense, her certainty of right and wrong as the limit of the depths of the human spirit, was, as I remember it, hard to take in a world clinging to optimism: yet the final conviction was total.

The realization that jagged decency, human justice, right or wrong as being enough, just couldn't satisfy was, as I have found in discussing the novel

with many many people, a moment of truth all the stronger because Ida was so real.

Added to this, of course, was Mr Greene's extraordinary power of plot-making, of suspense and of narration that moves continuously both in time and space and in emotion. In *Brighton Rock*, I found for the first time that I could obtain from the same modern novel the simple pleasures of a good read and the exciting demand of a novel of great depth.

It did not mean that the excitement of the experimental novels of our century were not as important as they seemed, but it did mean that so much that had been so vital to my enjoyment in boyhood was now open to me again in young manhood, and, not as I had thought, to be found only by a return to the masters of the last century.



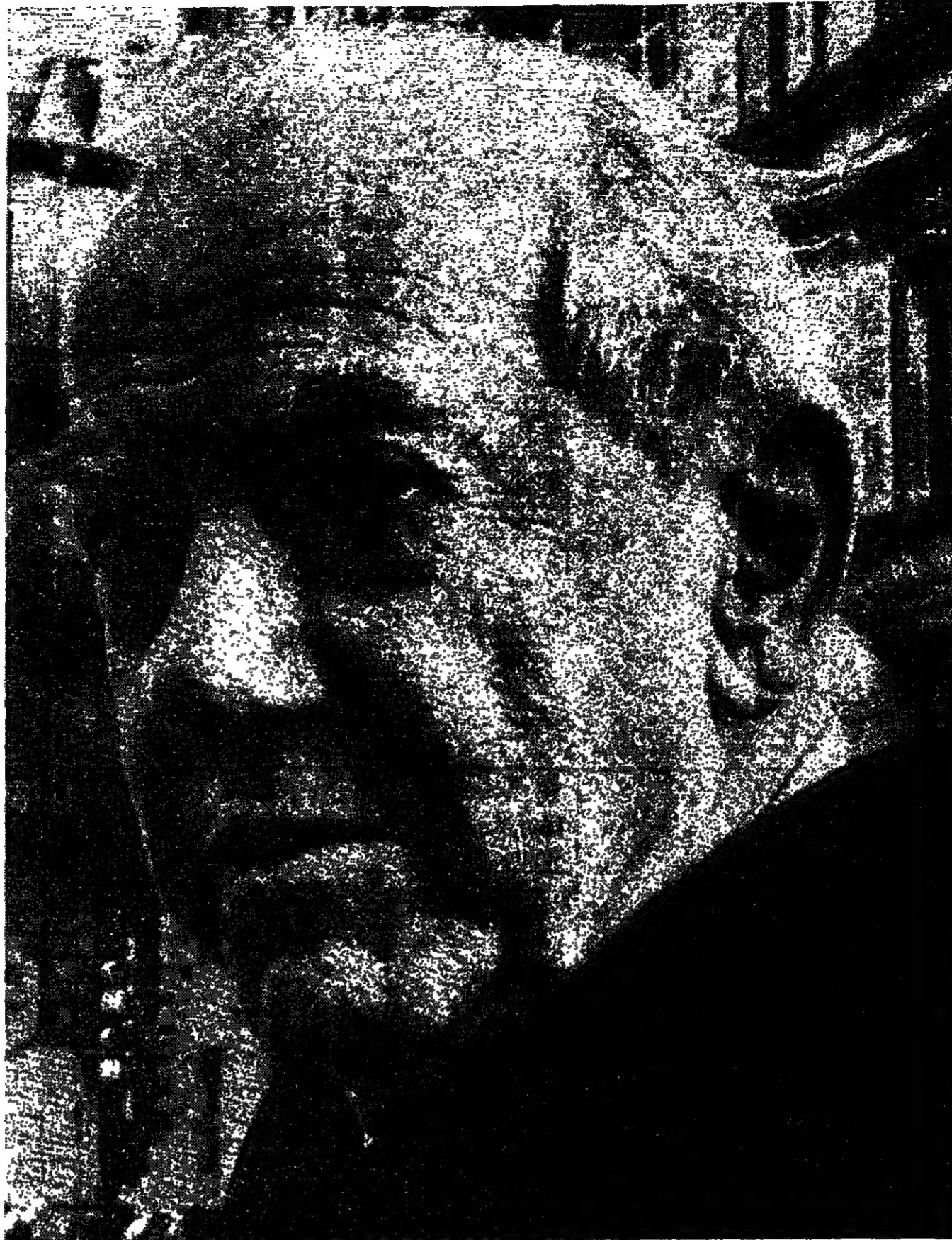
In a letter to *The Times* published on January 25 1982, Greene described Nice as a city "ruined for its corruption". He also announced that he planned a non-fiction based on his own experience in the area entitled *J'accuse*. The letter plunged Greene into a prolonged public row with the authorities involving demands from the Mayor for his evidence and advice from Greene to anyone planning to live in Nice to change their minds. Commenting on the affair he said: "A writer's old age can be very strange. Sometimes it's like his books: Evelyn Waugh, who made such fun of Apthorpe's 'thunder-box', died in the WC. Zola, like the miners in *Germinal*, was suffocated by charcoal fumes, and now, at the age of seventy-six, I find myself at grips with the criminal 'milieu' of Nice - but I hope that I, at any rate, shall get the better of Pinkie."

## SIR DAVID HUNT Diplomat and author

A retrospective glance at the works of Graham Greene makes you feel on the point of drowning - not because of the flood of material but rather because it brings, as drowning is said to do, the whole of your past life before your eyes.

In my first term at Oxford, 1932, I read *Stamboul Train*, published that year. Since then each stage and circumstance of my life has been accompanied by a new Graham Greene novel. To speak unkindly of any would be like treason to an earlier self.

The charm of the first novels lay in



"Graham Greene: He is the living writer I most admire; the greatest novelist of his time, in any language. The contribution he has made to the literature of this century is enormous" - William Trevor, fellow author

## DAVID STEEL Leader of the Liberal Party

"I put the muzzle of the revolver into my right ear and pulled the trigger. There was a minute click, and looking down at the chamber I could see that the charge had moved into the firing position. I was out by one."

We must all be grateful that Graham Greene survived that and his other attempts at Russian roulette and has lived to entertain us for so long. His work happily continues unabated in his ninth decade, with no diminution in quality. Besides writing steadily he

also manages to find the time and energy to stand up for an individual's rights in the face of powerful authority.

In his books he has created and peopled a territory all of his own, Greenland, which ought to have a place in any atlas of English writers.

His prose has that unmistakable quality: spare, penetrating, evocative. Even in his entertainments there is a philosophy shining not far below the surface. Unlike most books of that genre they can be reread and rediscovered.

Surely it is of international regret that his achievement - and it is a varied one spanning over fifty years - has not been recognized with the award of the Nobel Prize. It is not too late for the judges to make amends.

## ANTHONY QUINTON Philosopher

Hindsight does nothing to dislodge the impression he gave at the time: of being the essential British novelist of the 1930s. Although not personally close, as Isherwood was, to Auden and the poets around him, he shared their political concerns and fixed his attention, as Orwell did, not on the comfortable surroundings of the educated classes - the world, at one extreme, of Forster and Virginia Woolf, at the other of Agatha Christie - but on England as it was for most people.

The outcome was Greenland, the famously seedy world of terrace houses, dingy offices, inept private detectives with ulcers, oppressed teachers of absurd international languages, Harrovians gone to the bad, tarts and bookies in Brighton, communists caught up in a bus strike, mediums in beighted suburbs, forlorn, maltreated chambermaids in frightful hotels.

Conrad, particularly the Conrad of *The Secret Agent*, was the major and acknowledged influence. Admiration for Henry James showed itself in complexities of inner response, for John Buchan in a fondness, and a gift, for suspense; an inspired selection of examples.

Coming to read him in adolescence, in the last year of the 1930s, I felt him to be the most fresh and authoritative interpreter of my surroundings and they have never really lost the form that he helped me to perceive in them.

The original Graham Greene ended with the war, and with *The Heart of the Matter* and *The End of the Affair*. The former generous politics gave way to a sour anti-Americanism; the English scene was abandoned for the Third World. The earlier Greene retains undiminished glory for me. It is time to read *The Ministry of Fear* again.



The central issue throughout Greene's work has always been the question of faith. He became a Roman Catholic in 1926. He had been working in Nottingham and decided to ask for instruction because his fiancée was a Catholic. Over a period of instruction lasting six months a Father Trollope convinced him of the existence of God. Throughout his work, faith is always seen from a profoundly human standpoint.

He has always acknowledged doubt as part of the fabric of belief and a necessary condition of being a man. Yet he dislikes the term "Catholic writer" preferring to say instead: "I'm simply a Catholic who happens to write." Asked recently if he felt haunted by God he replied: "I hope so! I hope so! I'm not very conscious of His presence, but I hope that He is still dogging my footsteps. I also find myself thinking, not so much that He is pursuing me, but that certain extraordinary circumstances have had a beneficial effect on my life - I don't mean in terms of professional success or in terms of money, but in terms of happiness. My life has been radically transformed by events which have no logical reason."

## THE TIMES

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FRIDAY PAGE

One of the sons of the sixties is back as a film supergrass - Michael Crozier discovers the new man of the eighties

# Stamp of sense and sensitivity



Stamp in *Billy Budd* in 1962, and as the supergrass in *The Hit*



The 1984 Terence Stamp: At peace with the world and himself and still attracting admiring glances

The face is lined now, the hair grey and thinning but the deep-set blue eyes still have an extraordinary quality. The gestures seem well rehearsed but the body is calm and relaxed, betraying none of the tension and conflict that marked his meteoric path to stardom in the sixties.

Terence Stamp is back. His latest film, *The Hit*, opens in London today and Stamp is speaking, reluctantly at first, about his career and private life. Sitting in the pink, gold and blue opulence of the Ritz he gives precise orders to the waiter: "Fresh lemon juice with ice. Mineral water. I'll pour it."

We are on his stamping ground. On another day it would have been the Soda Fountain at Fortnum's, where the China tea and Mexican honey would have been delivered to his semi-permanently reserved table by one of the waitresses he knows so well. He still lives in Albany, a few hundred yards away up towards Piccadilly.

In the film, 46-year-old Stamp plays Willy Parker, a supergrass, whose reward for betraying his fellow gangsters is exile in Spain. Ten years later, after prison, the gang sends an assassin to "take him out". It sounds like just another gangster movie.

Stamp disagrees: "No, the thing that makes this movie unusual, the comedy and dilemma of it, is that the supergrass has been using these 10 years to learn, basically, how to die. He has evolved over the years through study because he knows he's signed his own death warrant."

"That kind of pressure has given him an extraordinary incentive to understand the whole process of death."

"Does this character with his inner calm reflect your own philosophy?"

"People assume that because I was cast and because I'm known for being an old India freak that the character is like that. In fact, there's not really an indication in the film that he's stumbled on to Eastern philosophy."

Won't most filmgoers still see it on a very superficial level?

Again, Stamp pauses, searching for the right words: "It really works on the superficial level of a thriller, but if you want to see, if you are ready to look beyond that, there's not nothing there - that's the point."

The impression immediately comes across that he is talking about himself. That beyond the reclusive figure, the man in the spotlight of the swinging sixties, who drifted away from glamour, the girls and the glory, lies now the real Terence Stamp, the son of an East End tug-boat driver, who through reading and reflection is at peace with the world and himself.

The journey has not been easy. Stamp has felt the need to rely on gurus. The first was Michael Caine, with whom he shared three flats in the sixties. "Because we were both from

## Everything I acquired was so superficial

London, he took me under his wing and guided me. When it all happened to me, I was a little embarrassed because he was my guru and I thought he would make it. I couldn't see how anybody could fail to see his talent."

Their friendship waned when Stamp started going out with Jean Shrimpton - together the young superstar and the stunning model formed the ideally beautiful couple, a product of the age. He just wanted to be with her.

When she left him after four years - "I suppose I really deserved it" - he took off on the first of his many trips to India, and "the search for self-enlightenment".

He says: "When she left, I realized that all these things I had acquired, that I thought were quintessential to my well-being, were just peripheral, superficial. In that moment of real heartache, lots of money and stuff didn't quench anything."

The sense of loss still lies deep within him. The memory triggers off the sudden need to explain that he feels "more receptive" than other men, although as he admits, that does sound pretentious. He does feel sensitive about the need to escape from his moods of emotional doubt.

Bizarrely at first, he explains that when he is alone and melancholic he reads Rupert Bear: "It's a kind of alchemy for me. If I'm in a certain mood, I can enhance that mood by flicking through the old Rupert."

Surely that is just an escape into childhood fantasies?

His denial is obscure: "Rupert is not any escape. It's attached to a feeling whereby I can step into a certain sort of level of sensitivity."

He tries again, touching my arm, seeking comprehension: "When I was so depressed after Jean left, everything I started reading told me to find an enlightened person. I think that the phrase that hooked me was the first guru was the mother and the second the father and the third guru was the guru. So I took off on my own to India."

The words are a sudden reprise of the vocabulary of the sixties but now, nearly 20 years later, he still believes them deeply.

After India, Stamp spent much time in Rome making low-budget films with Fellini, Visconti and others. Then the pull of London proved too much and he returned to his chambers in Albany.

Since then he has never stopped making films. He appeared in *Superman*, *Superman II* and the recent independent television thriller, *Chessgame*. But he feels as an artist that he must be selective.

He says: "I am equipped to work much more. It would suit my lifestyle to work more. It is just that if I can pay the rent then I prefer to be out of work. I don't do something I would feel really embarrassed by. I get sent scripts and I just think that I can't really do that. I am a middle-aged

man and I've been in the business 25 years."

I am suddenly aware that even here in the moneyed confines of the Ritz he still attracts the admiring glances of the women, and men, walking past. Of this, he gives no sign that he notices or even cares, preferring to talk about his plans to write a film script.

Unlike so many other stars of his generation he has no wish to put himself behind the cameras and direct. He is too self-contained for that.

When not working he spends his days, often alone, in Albany, playing music (he is careful not to identify his taste) and reading.

Philosophy? "I'm not really reading much serious stuff these days. I've reached the point when all philosophy is essentially the same."

## I find all philosophy is essentially the same

flavour. Like eating honey, it's a great pleasure that you remember."

A vegetarian naturally, Stamp learnt how to cook for himself but strangely for a man of his East End background never eats fish. He does not smoke and has only an occasional drink: "My favourite is really good vintage champagne or good wine. I'm a very cheap date, a couple of glasses and I'm really away." He no longer worries about life passing him by. I now have a sense of something living inside me. In the past there just wasn't any gravity."

I had to ask it: "Is there anyone special to you in your life at the moment?"

The answer was well scripted and rehearsed: "There is no one special just now apart from you. I relate to the people I am with. By the way, what's the time? I must dash, I'm having dinner with Jacqueline Bisset."

## Just a fading memory blowing in the wind

It is ironic that the nostalgic prettiness and tranquillity of the good old days painted by Flora Thompson's *Lark Rise to Candleford* should have been inspired by such an unimpressive place as Juniper Hill.

Surrounded on all sides by the flat, windswept farmland of North Oxfordshire, the hamlet is a cluster of houses ringed by a cart track known as the Rise. There are no shops and just one pub, the Fox Inn, which was empty at lunchtime and, despite the welcome mat, not very receptive to strangers.

Sitting in the low-beamed room, surrounded by silence and the twinkling lights of a jukebox, you recall Flora Thompson's description of the friendly gatherings in the evening at the pub "with its roaring fire, red curtains and well-scoured pewter".

Wherever else you might see the commercialization of Lark Rise it will not be at Juniper Hill, Flora Thompson's childhood home. The village has been isolated for so long that some innate suspicion towards outsiders remains.

At the whitewashed cottage called Lark Rise, with its unobtrusive plaque noting that Flora Thompson was born there in 1876, its owners, the Goodings, have painted "Private" on the gate. They moved there 17 years ago, before it became a tourist target, and they are a little tired of people marching into the garden, ignoring them, and taking photographs of the house.

In spite of their understandable aversion to tourists, the people of Juniper take pride in their famous daughter, the quiet, bookreading girl in the end house who, years after she left the area, recalled the days of her childhood so evocatively.

Flora Thompson, herself never romanticized the hamlet. She wrote of a life where the only meat people could afford was cured bacon from the slaughtered family pig to spice up a diet of cabbage, bread and potatoes.

Families lived 10 or more in the cramped one-up, one down cottages: Flora's parents, Emma and Albert Timms, had 10 children, of whom six died young. Flora was the eldest, and by the age of 14 was working as



Different generations: Mrs Ashton and her grandchildren at Juniper Hill today

an assistant to the postmistress at Fringford.

After the hard days of the 1880s, there was a steady trickle of people from the hamlet to the bigger towns. A number, includ-

ing one of Flora's brothers, emigrated to Canada or Australia. But there are still those whose family connections go back generations, such as the Ashlons, whom Flora wrote of

in *Lark Rise* as the "Ashleys", remembering their home as a place of "peace and quiet and spotless purity", with its white washed walls, scrubbed table and floor and polished grate.

## Hard sell of the classic fable of sleeping Lark Rise

Over at Radcliffe Manor, immortalised by Flora Thompson as the home of the woman in the Garibaldi jacket, the merchandizing of *Lark Rise* was being celebrated this week. Journalists, publishers and people from Debenhams arrived by coach to sniff back the fizz and admire the stone-flagged floor and kitchen range that were so accurately described in the book.

The manor's new owner, Brian Howlett, who has lived there for six years, runs a herb garden, butterfly farm and is known as a "package designer". He has already designed herb garden kits, a "County Diary of an Edwardian Lady" garden kit and is thinking of adding a "Lark Rise" garden kit to the collection.

The overall merchandizing has been given a £125,000 launch and Debenhams, who have exclusive rights for a month, hope to do £3m worth of business. A press release waxes lyrical over the beehive charm you can buy for your home.

Illustrations of pressed flowers are "scattered like a careless country pony over cups, mugs and plates". Rustic furniture in "aged pine" and Lark Rise soft furnishings and wallpapers with small flowered patterns will, we are told, add a breath of fresh air.

The project began when two men running a merchandizing company looked at the possibility of capitalizing on Century Publishing's *The Illustrated Lark Rise to Candleford*, a very

much abridged and lavishly illustrated version of Flora Thompson's classic.

Stuart Gibbon, managing director of Lark Rise Merchandizing Company, was already in the nostalgia business with his Edwardian Kitchen Company. He and Desmond Preston, a former managing director of John Lewis, set to persuading furniture, fabric and kitchenware manufacturers to produce "Lark Rise" designs.

"After the launch, we will be issuing a Christmas album of Lark Rise carols, to be followed by old country and harvest songs," said Stuart Gibbon. "There will also be children's toys, children's books, a record of children's rhymes and a television series. We are only at the beginning."

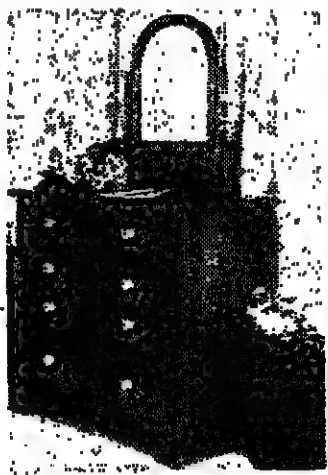
They show no signs of deserting the area: Stephen Ashton's two daughters are both married and living in cottages next door, and he has two grandsons.

Stephen Ashton, now 75, remembers Flora visiting her parents when he was a child. On one occasion he was sent to fetch some milk for her and was rewarded with a piece of cake.

Mr Ashton went to work on the land for a local farmer at the age of 14 for six shillings a week. Nearly all the men in Juniper worked on the land then. Today very few do so. One or two are at British Leyland in Oxford, others work for a shoe factory, a frozen chicken factory or a firm that manufactures concrete garages. The local farmers usually employ contract workers.

A newly built house, starkly boxy and painted a battleship grey, has just been completed on the site of the ruins of "Old Sally's" cottage. When you think of Flora Thompson's description of Old Sally's "long, low thatched cottage with diamond-paned windows winking under the eaves and a rustic porch smothered in honeysuckle," you begin to regret the passing of the old days, however hard they may have been.

Clare Colvin



A new "aged pine" chest in the Lark Rise collection

## Soft option for baby

Babies thrive on their mother's milk - and lamb-skin. No self-respecting podcaster baby would be without lamb-skin bedding but the idea has been slow to catch on here. Winganna Natural Products have been importing lambskins for 15 years but only this month receive the official support of the National Childbirth Trust.

Research at Cambridge published in *The Lancet* last year revealed that premature babies who were nursed on lamb-skin wool gained significantly more weight than those lying on cotton sheets.

But lambskins are not just suitable for ailing babies. Any child or adult may benefit from them. No artificial substitute will do and the wool must be clipped to about one inch. Air circulating through the fleece cools the skin, keeping it warm and dry.

Although the lambskins are fully machine washable, parents can save time and money on laundry: hot sponging the skin is usually quite sufficient.

Insomniacs and arthritics benefit from sleeping on them while bed-ridden invalids find bed sores less troublesome. Fleeces from Australia, where strict specifications have to be followed, are recommended. These are available from Winganna Natural Products (06465 403) or Kimberley Products (01-274 9347). Prices from £22.

## MEDICAL BRIEFING

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

### Smoke cleared

Would-be mothers with a taste for smoked food can carry on eating with alacrity.

Recently scientists in Iceland linked the high incidence of diabetes there with a smoked mutton Christmas treat which the Icelanders eat in large quantities.

Concerned that smoked foods here may be having the same effect David Symon and colleagues from Aberdeen University tested the hypothesis in the north-east of Scotland where smoked foods are popular and the incidence of diabetes is high.

While the idea may still hold true for Iceland they could find no evidence that mothers of diabetic children were more likely to eat more smoked food.

### Cycling safety

Road safety experts are becoming increasingly concerned by the number of young cyclists killed or maimed each year. They would like to see better and cheaper head-gear for cyclists made available and moves to encourage cyclists, especially children, to wear a helmet.

Provisional figures from the Department of Transport indicate that in 1983 10,580 children were hurt while riding a bicycle. Eighty-four died. Most at risk are young teenage boys; in some parts of the country cycling accidents are now the commonest cause of death in children over 10 and it is head injuries that kill.

According to the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents a good helmet is likely to cost at least £20 and few makes are available. A report from a road safety working party will recommend in November a British Standard for cycle helmets.

## Bear the pain and carry the baby

Women who suffer painful cramps in the first couple of days of their periods may be reassured to know that it indicates that they are fertile. During the menstrual cycle the levels of hormones swing up and down and if ovulation occurs the lining of the womb may be triggered into producing substances called prostaglandins. These act on the muscles lining the womb causing contractions

and raising the intra-uterine pressure - the combination resulting in the pain.

According to Dr Stephen Smith, lecturer in the department of obstetrics and gynaecology at Sheffield, measurements of the intra-uterine pressure of women who have a particularly rough time have been as high as 400 mmHg (for comparison, during labour the expected level is in the region of 75 mmHg).

Dr Smith emphasizes that women who have pain-free periods should not assume they

are infertile. Painless periods can happen, and often do, when ovulation has occurred. The only conclusion that can be drawn is that pain and ovulation usually go hand-in-hand.

And Dr Smith also points out that there is not necessarily a link between painful and heavy periods. Although the loss of blood is linked to prostaglandins, it is not thought to be the same system as the one triggering the cramp.

Women should always seek medical advice if the pain is unusual or unexpected.

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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Fields of vision

After predicting a boardroom dust-up between Virgin Atlantic's chairman, Randolph Fields and its president Richard Branson, I can reveal that Fields is planning to set up his own transatlantic airline.

Fields, who owns 25 per cent of Virgin Atlantic, plans to operate his airline from Prestwick in Scotland, and fly to Virgin's US destination - Newark, New Jersey - but via Maastricht in Holland, a hitherto underused airport in the heart of industrial Europe. Permission for the route was granted to Fields on Virgin's behalf by the CAA, so now he will have to approach the authority again in a solo capacity. Fields was in Scotland for talks this week, and is understood to have sought financial backing from the industry Department for Scotland, as Prestwick is one of the highest areas of unemployment, he should attract lucrative grants. My prediction last month of a parting of the ways between Fields, a London-based American lawyer, and Branson, who owns the remaining 75 per cent of Virgin Atlantic, followed a leak to the diary of boardroom confrontations between the two.

### Boxed in

The deputy chairman of the Militant-led Liverpool City Council is heading back to the football terraces, following a recent incident in Liverpool F.C.'s directors box. Jimmy Hackett, who represented the council in Rome for the team's European Cup final, upset club chairman John Smith by his enthusiastic response to a Liverpool goal during the club's first home match of the season. Hackett jumped up and shouted "Well done!", as he has done over 31 years of support. "I was told you don't do that sort of thing in the directors' box," says Hackett. "From now on I will go back to the Cop with my own sort."

### Light relief

Amid cries of "Power cuts, what power cuts?", I learn that the Government has taken delivery of more than 12 million candles. The Treasury's order was placed with a South London firm of candle-makers back in the hot summer - just at the time when Energy Minister Peter Walker was boasting that, despite the miners' strike, "the electricity stocks at power stations which will see us through without power cuts until at least February". I should rush while stocks last.

### Send-up

The anti-Scargill posters being plastered around Brighton by the National Working Miners' Committee reached one place no-one expected - the bedroom of Arthur Scargill. I am told a "Come off it Arthur" poster was secreted into his morning papers.

### Soaring leakers

As the row over the Belgrano leaks continues, defenders of Whitehall's moles have reminded us of the pre-war civil servants who were given secret information to Sir Winston Churchill for his criticism of Britain's inadequate air defences. One of the officials is Sir Michael Creswell, then a young member of the Foreign Office who worked on the assessments of Germany's air strength leaked by his superior. At one point he wrote to Churchill directly, asking for the reply to be sent to his club, "not to the Foreign Office". His indiscretions did not harm his career. Sir Michael, who celebrates his seventy-fifth birthday this month, became ambassador to Argentina.

BARRY FANTONI



### E for effort

A "school sneak" has leaked a confidential document to the diary exposing an embarrassing arithmetic error made by students of the Open University. The university's student association overspent its budget for their Warwick conference in March by £7,000, and will tomorrow meet in Milton Keynes to devise ways to make up the loss. Besides widely misjudging the number of conference delegates, the university blundered in multiplying the figure for catering and accommodation. The answer was not even close: wrong by £5,480. The association's new secretary, John Needham, assures me: "For next year's conference I've checked the calculation five times."

PHS

## Meeting is such sweet sorrow

Paul Routledge asks if the miners and the coal board are ready to settle

The question on everyone's lips as the miners and the National Coal Board gingerly prepare for their weekend negotiations is "Just when is it all going to end, and how?" The pit strike has gone on so long, the parties are so deeply entrenched and the personalities so abrasive, that peace seems to be an illusion.

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, yesterday rephrased his formal invitation to the talks, taking out the reference to collieries that are "uneconomic" but he made it clear that his objective is to rid the industry of high-cost capacity. In that, he has the support of the Prime Minister, who expressed her confidence in him.

Judging by Mr Scargill's self-confident, even jaunty, demeanour you would think he has been in training for this all his life. He lost weight (deliberately, he insists) and looks in fighting trim. He spars with the media, mostly good-humouredly, but his temper flares when he becomes irritated. In the negotiations he doggedly pursues an intransigent line, repeating time and time again that the National Union of Mineworkers will not concede on the central issue of closing the pits that the coal board judge to be uneconomic.

Scargill's invective against his adversary has obviously not improved the negotiating climate. MacGregor makes light of the insults, and dishes out as good as he gets: it sets a new level of labour relations abuse with the chairman of a nationalised industry accusing the leader of the main union in it of lying in his teeth. He has apparently told a meeting of managers in the Midlands that if it would help, he

would step down from the negotiations. But there is no question of Scargill matching his magnanimous gesture. The credit for victory or blame for defeat will be his and his alone.

There are pressures on both sides to reach a settlement, but the scope for the time-honoured shabby compromise is limited. MacGregor makes no secret of wanting to restore full management control in the industry so that he can shut high-cost pits and balance the books. He is a new kind of chairman who puts the interests of the taxpayer and the energy consumer first, rejecting the traditional cosy conspiracy of the industry's management and unions to run it as a private club with unrestricted access to the public purse.

Scargill wants a deal that not only perpetuates the old regime, but makes the NUM the dominant partner in the relationship. A colliery could only be closed if the NUM agreed that it had no reserves that are workable, "or which can be developed". And there are no uneconomic pits, Mr Scargill argues: only pits that have not had enough investment put into them. In other words, the industry is a bottomless pit into which taxpayers' money is poured.

It is difficult to see how those two positions can be reconciled, despite Scargill's bland assertion yesterday that a settlement could be reached "in a few hours". One side or the

other will have to give way on the principle of who shuts the pits, and on what basis. The Government would find it very hard to live with a deal that gives - or even appears to give - the whip hand to Scargill. Shortly before Parliament rose in July, Energy Minister Mr Gyles Shaw insisted that the NUM had to recognize the necessity of shutting down uneconomic capacity. They steadfastly refused to do so, and the drift back to work in the coalfields is not yet strong enough to compel them to back down.

However, other pressures are mounting on the parties. The TUC has now gained a leverage in the dispute through this week's congress decision to coordinate supportive action. Scargill insists that he has an undertaking that the TUC will not "interfere" with the conduct of the negotiations.

But the moderates who control the general council are already saying that that is not on, that the price of TUC support is TUC involvement in the peace process, and that the NUM will be leaned on to reach an accommodation. Some of them would accept the coal board's final offer, which permits the closure of collieries that have no reserves that can be "beneficially developed", or, at least, something very like it.

There are also political pressures. Labour leaders would like to see an end to this interminable conflict which is thought to be hampering

the party's recovery. Preferably, they want it over before the party conference in Blackpool in a month's time, before it becomes a rumour of the TUC's which has been little more than a glorified miners' rally. The miners have a motion down calling for total support for their strike which would carry, and would link Labour and the pit confrontation together firmly in the public mind.

By contrast, there is every incentive for the Government to spin out the peace process so that Mr Scargill cannot be seen to win (or even draw) before the Tory Party conference next month, in the same conference hall where the NUM president won his standing ovation four days ago.

The pressures on the board are of a rather different character. According to confidential NCB papers leaked to the NUM, the NCB lost £450m in the first quarter of this financial year, excluding interest payments and social payments which would take that figure over the £700m mark. Mother Nature is also making her impact. Sixteen pits have already been lost, and many others are giving cause for concern as the relentless pressures of geology reshapes the underground coalfield. And the capacity is being lost in the wrong places, from the board's point of view.

But the invitation to talks at the weekend does not show any inclination on the part of the board to back off from its insistence that capacity must be reduced by four million tonnes, equivalent to 30 pits and 20,000 jobs. There is clearly a lot of very hard bargaining ahead.

### Richard Ford on the questions still being asked about a shooting in Ulster



Seamus Grew (left), Roddy Carroll; police at the site of the shooting; the car has still not been released for examination

Almost two years since the Royal Ulster Constabulary shot dead unarmed terrorist suspects in Northern Ireland, their families' representatives have not seen case papers for the inquest. Neither have the police - carrying out their own inquiry - released the car in which the men died for the families' own experts to examine forensically.

This delay, which has just become known, has fuelled even further the suspicion and controversy surrounding the deaths of Irish National Liberation Army volunteers Seamus Grew and Roddy Carroll. One Roman Catholic coroner has resigned after finding "grave irregularities" in police files on the case. His deputy, the son of a former assistant chief constable who had operational responsibilities at the time of the shooting, has withdrawn from the case because of "growing professional commitment" and a third coroner has publicly rebuked his colleague for quitting, suggesting that it was his duty to clear up the affair.

That is exactly what many people in the province are waiting for, although the latest furore seems likely to delay still further the inquest until perhaps early next year. By then, according to Mr Gus Campbell, the solicitor representing both families, "the death of Grew and Carroll will have paled into insignificance" compared with the importance of what is revealed about the workings of the police.

The effects of the incident are still being felt, especially among the nationalist community, whose growing alienation from the forces of law and order has been a central preoccupation of current Anglo-Irish negotiations.

The two men were the last to be shot during a period of several weeks in which the RUC killed six nationalists during three separate incidents in County Armagh. In the last three months of 1982, 47 people

died in the Armagh area. The escalating violence brought serious pressure from Unionists for the police to take decisive action. Increased police manpower was drafted in and the RUC heightened its profile. Following this shift, three unarmed Provisional IRA terrorists were killed after their car was hit with 109 bullets, a youth was killed at a farm's outbuilding and 18 days later, on December 12, Grew and Carroll were shot dead when 19 bullets were pumped into their car near a strongly Republican housing estate.

The shootings highlighted the vicious circle of security policies in the province. Remorseless terrorism increases loyalist demands for tough measures, but these evoke nationalist outrage, fuelling still further Protestant protest. Actions which strengthen Protestant confidence heighten nationalist suspicions that a "shoot-to-kill" policy was being operated by the security forces - a suspicion apparently confirmed for many when Northern Ireland Secretary James Prior admitted that special anti-terrorist squads existed within the RUC. It's a no-win situation, and as one lawyer put it: "The British are the poor losers, kicked from both sides. It's a circle they cannot square."

Each incident was investigated by the Director of Public Prosecutions and four officers were charged with murder. Inevitably there were

accusations from Unionist politicians that the Government was throwing the sop of a "police show-trial" to unappeasable Republicans.

The four officers were tried and acquitted earlier this year in circumstances which did nothing to end the controversy. It was the evidence given during the trial of a police constable accused of murdering Mr Grew, however, that has continued to raise suspicion.

The officer was part of a heavily armed squad known as the Special Support Unit, trained by the SAS at Hereford in "fire power, speed and aggression". The unit had been drafted into Armagh after an informer indicated that Dominic McGlinchey was to be brought across the border by the two men.

An elaborate undercover operation was launched to detain him, but it was only when the shooting ended that the police apparently realized he was not in the car, and that both men had been unarmed.

Many people in the nationalist community could not understand why, if police wanted to arrest the two men for questioning about suspected terrorist activity, they did not do so in the weeks preceding the shooting, when they were walking the streets of their hometown. As well as the concern aroused by the special unit, and the shooting itself, Constable Robinson dropped a bombshell in the court proceedings. In unchallenged evidence Robinson said that senior police

officers had helped him concoct a story covering up events leading to the killing, aimed at concealing a Special Branch incursion across the border, army surveillance activities, and the identity of an informer.

The story said the terrorists' car crashed through a police checkpoint, injuring an officer, that police followed in a standard vehicle and that they indicated to Grew that they were RUC officers by waving a portable flashing blue light. In fact there was no checkpoint, he had travelled in an unmarked Peugeot car, and waved his cap to indicate he was a policeman. The real story only emerged when Robinson was told by senior officers he could say anything he wished and would not be prosecuted under the Official Secrets Act. The RUC was then seen to have lied in its original version of events, badly damaging its credibility with both the public and the media, while the ramifications of the Special Branch operating in the Republic led to a diplomatic row between London and Dublin.

The row only ended with a fulsome apology from the British ambassador, a promise that the Irish government would be kept fully informed of an inquiry into the cover-up, and further concern in Dublin government circles at the leadership of the RUC by Sir John Herlihy.

The coroner's resignation has again raised fears that the truth of what happened will never be known. His tactics have been privately criticized, with many arguing that he should have remained in office and attempted to expose the "irregularities" of the police files in open court. As father Denis Paul, a Roman Catholic priest, said: "The murder trial did not bring out the facts, but it did reveal the cover story. All this should leave the public with a grave sense of dissatisfaction." It is a feeling widely shared throughout the nationalist community.

## Poland points a finger at wartime Britain

Warsaw Did the British murder General Wladyslaw Sikorski, Poland's wartime leader? The question, gnawed at for years by western historians and writers, has been reopened this week by a new Polish film, *Catastrophe in Gibraltar*. It touches on some of the most sensitive issues in recent Polish history, including the killing of some 3,000 Polish officers in Katyn forest and the dispatch of hundreds of thousands of Poles to the Soviet gulags.

The film is directed by Bogdan Poreba, the chairman of the Grunwald Association, a nationalist, strongly pro-Soviet and sometimes anti-Semitic pressure group within the Communist Party. Its three-hour film, which was premiered on Sunday, reflects at least some of these prejudices. Winston Churchill and Franklin Roosevelt are shown as staunch supporters of Poland but all too ready to discard the country and General Sikorski, its premier, when the winds of war changed. Joseph Stalin, making a rare appearance in Polish cinemas, is shown as tough but fair.

General Sikorski died in July 1943 when his Liberator aircraft flared and crashed into the sea shortly after take-off from Gibraltar. The Polish authorities have been trying for decades to secure the return from Britain of the general's ashes. In Cracow's Wawel Castle a

huge sarcophagus waits, empty, for his last remains but Britain has so far shown little enthusiasm.

Although accident and pilot error have both been suggested as causes of the fatal crash most commentators have settled for sabotage. The problem of finding a likely culprit is compounded by the fact that almost every major participant in the war had a motive - and a few had the opportunity - for disposing of General Sikorski. The Germans had the most obvious motive - Polish troops had already made an impact on crucial fronts - and had a record of sabotage in Gibraltar. The Russians had broken relations with the Polish government in London and saw Sikorski as a serious obstacle to their post-war plans to change frontiers. Moreover by an odd coincidence, Sikorski's plane was parked next to that of Ivan Maisky, the Soviet ambassador to London, who was in Gibraltar at the same time as the general.

But Poreba seems to put his chips on the British. Shortly before the Sikorski plane is due to take off a man in a Panama hat, who from the context could only have been British, is seen handing a special parcel to the loaders. Later he is shown saying farewell to the Polish general and his daughter alongside the governor of Gibraltar Sir Frank Mason MacFarlane. The parcel, it is hinted, was a bomb.

If Poreba is a little vague about the actual means of the sabotage, he leaves no doubt about the motive. The camera holds for a long, frozen shot on the handshake between Churchill and Sikorski at the beginning of their friendship. Churchill is quoted as saying that the alliance between Poland and Britain was unbreakable - "by life or death". We are left to digest the implications of this. At this stage Churchill is still an equitable, witty man prepared to do everything to evacuate the Polish government from France to London. "Get everything that moves and speaks Polish", he tells the British general staff.

But the relationship sours. The last shot of Churchill shows him clutching the shoulders of Sikorski and saying that he should put the Katyn Forest massacre behind him: "If they are dead, nothing you can do can bring them back again." To a Polish audience this is deeply shocking. Few in Poland have any doubt that the Soviet army deliberately murdered the Polish officer corps, and to hear Churchill condone it for the greater virtue of British-Soviet friendship jars and offends.

Apart from the mysterious British-looking man who hands over the parcel-cum-bomb, the film is based on documented fact rather than supposition. But by weighing events such as Sikorski receiving a

telegram from Churchill urging him to come back as soon as possible, Poreba can create a convincing, oblique and largely circumstantial case against the British.

In doing so, however, he cannot escape frequent mentions of the smouldering Polish-Soviet resentment. The film is chosen to lead Polish forces being formed on Soviet territory - General Wladyslaw Anders - is hailed out of a Russian labour camp and is shown on crutches, head shaven. "Let's forget the past", a Soviet major tells him offering caviar.

While Sikorski inspects Polish troops in the Middle East, a soldier breaks ranks and cries that his wife and family are in the Soviet Union and he fears for them. The audience, some of them veterans of the Sikorski years, others part of the Solidarity generation, managed to raise an ironic cheer when soon after the German attack on Poland, the Russians announce that they will move into eastern Poland. "It's Radio Moscow," says a Polish radio operator. "They say because Poland is now without a government the Russians will now look after the minorities on Poland's eastern territory."

Not even as faithful a communist as Mr Poreba could camouflage the cynicism of Poland's eastern neighbour.

Roger Boyes

## Even Mrs T needs a TUC

David Watt

The TUC's debate on the miners' strike on Monday was like a play by Eugene O'Neill - great theatre but so depressing that one could hardly bear to stay to the end. The Master himself could scarcely have devised a grimmer scenario of sad, self-deluding, articulate characters hopelessly tearing each other's illusions to bits in a doomed environment which is itself a parable of a doomed culture inside a doomed universe.

The saddest and most tragic victims of illusion, clearly, were the older stalwarts of the movement. Their much criticized desire for a quiet life and the appearance of fraternal solidarity at all costs are really the point. These are only the outward and visible signs of an inward and spiritual conviction about the nature of the TUC's role. These men still think of it as an estate of the realm, with "standing", "influence", "authority". Its leaders are supposed to reach a sober consensus after which it can talk to government, and discipline its members with the full weight of the TUC's moral authority.

Mr Gavin Laird gave the clue to this when he kept saying that the situation had been transformed in the last week because the miners had finally come to talk to the TUC general council as "the government of this movement". Like some weak late-medieval monarch he believes that if a threatening and obstreperous baron can be induced to bend the knee and reaffirm the oath of allegiance, that act in itself will constitute a humiliation of the rebel sufficient to restore the authority of the Crown.

This is a fond hope. There is no reason to suppose that as a result of pressure from this freshly refurbished "authority" Mr Scargill will be more likely to moderate his negotiating position, or condemn picket violence or do anything that would bring an actual settlement nearer. Why should he, when he knows that the stately blessing now conferred on his actions - for what that is worth - cannot be formally removed without an impossible loss of face? The TUC's famous new "voice in the miners' dispute" has no more substance than one of those unheeded, robotic utterances that tells you to fasten your seatbelt.

What is even more galling is that the rest of the barons show no signs of being really prepared to pay more than temporary lip-service to the general council's divine right either. The truth is that the mystique of the TUC as a "government" has completely evaporated in the last five years - the victim of recession, of Conservative snubs and, above all, the gradual democratization of unions and "bourgeoisification" of individual unionists. The attempt to reconstruct it on a basis of verbiage may be the least of the immediately available evils, but it will nevertheless only make matters worse in the long run.

Of course Mr Scargill has his own illusions, though it is fashionable to suppose that, as a diabolically cynical Marxist, he has none. All through his two speeches on Monday genuine sentimentality and vanity kept breaking out from behind the cold-blooded demagoguery. But his fundamental illusion goes deeper than that. It is that he can move the entire Labour movement to the left, and with it the country, by the force of his example.

Philip Howard

## Good reason, do not desert me

Astrology is bunk. Even those of us who would have trouble beating a beagle in a general intelligence test must dimly apprehend that the conjunction of the stars at the time of our births has as little effect on the rest of our lives as the state of the yam crop in the Trobriand Islands. All that astrology is good for is transferring money from the gullible to the charlatans. And yet millions of intelligent people in our supposedly advanced western society turn without embarrassment to read what double-tongued codswallop is predicted by the stars this week for those born under the sign of Scorpio or Aquarius.

Every schoolboy knows that there are no monsters in Loch Ness; only discarded potato crisp packets and other garbage. That does not stop us lapping up the latest garbage about the monster. The public prints up in darkest Ayrshire are full of the latest wheeze to trap Nessie in a gigantic monstertrap baited with old fish. The Loch Ness monster is, of course, the original and classic silly season story for stirring up a bit of sensationalism in August, before the news starts to flow again with the new terms of everything from school to Parliament. But we go on half believing the old malarkey. And there is money to be made from monsters by the armful.

Noah's Ark is another old chimera that has resurfaced. As usual in the silly season Mount Ararat and other protruberances in western Turkey are infested by fat-headed American pseudo-scientists claiming to be on the point of rediscovering the ark. We do not go into how the old boat, 300 cubits by 30 by 30, and accordingly conspicuous, has stuck up there all these millennia without being seen by a passing Armenian shepherd, and without crumbling to bits. I dare say that gopher wood petrified easily. Note in passing rapidly by the ark, like an Armenian shepherd, that the "scientists" exploring for such monsters seldom come from the relevant scientific discipline. Few

stripped of its rhetorical flourishes, indicated that it will not happen in the Labour Party either. The Labour leadership has realized that people are simply fed up with the strike and pretty well everyone remotely connected with it, starting with Mr Scargill but not excluding Mr Kinnoch himself, for which reason, the demands of left-wingers like Messrs Benn, Hefner and Skinner for total Labour Party identification with the miners have been, and will continue to be, resisted whatever temporary lunacies may be demanded or even perpetrated at the party conference next month.

What, then, is left for the unions if these various illusions are taken away? Unless some totally unexpected breakthrough occurs in the next week or two, the best that they can hope for is that the Government will get into serious difficulties over power supply by next spring - the only eventuality that will induce Mrs Thatcher to settle on terms that would allow the miners (and now the TUC) to "hold their heads high", as Mr Murray put it.

This will not be the result of any additional solidarity from other unions and certainly not from any change of heart by the power workers - but it might conceivably be the effect of a gradual attrition of coal stocks at the existing rate. If this starts to look likely (and it may not) a new definition of an "uneconomic" pit will be discovered and the dispute will end amid more or less plausible claims of victory from NCB, miners, government and TUC alike.

This would undoubtedly be humiliating for Mrs Thatcher and it might even (after a discreet interval) put her personal position at risk. It would certainly be the end of Mr MacGregor. But it would not remove the Government, nor make public opinion think any better of union power, nor make the Conservatives any less determined to curb it.

Is there anything else, then, that the unions can realistically look forward to as the curtain comes down on this painful scene? Just possibly. For the scene itself, even if it adds less than nothing to anyone's enthusiasm for the Labour movement in its present state, must surely add to the general indignation against the Government. Mr Kinnoch could hardly miss with his point that the situation in the coal industry and the Government's mechanistic handling of it are an integral part of the whole unemployment mess.

More subtly, the pathetic rout in the Brighton conference hall must make any thoughtful person more dubious about the conventional Thatcherite wisdom about trade unions in general. The Government has deliberately set out to cut them down to size and has succeeded so well that it has left itself with virtually no responsible interlocutor on the labour scene.

This is a disaster of the first magnitude even in the Government's own terms. For if one accepts what the Chancellor and the "liberal" economists allege, that much unemployment is caused by workers pricing themselves out of jobs, the problem still arises of how to persuade workers to price themselves into them. The present political and economic situation is hardly a convincing advertisement for leaving this task to the slow, haphazard cruelty of market forces. But if not the market, what remains? Like Mr Scargill, Mrs Thatcher may yet find she needs a TUC after all.

genuine astronomers go in for astrology. There are not many marine biologists paddling about in Loch Ness. The chaps looking for Noah tend not to be professional archaeologists, in the same way that the chaps intent on authenticating the holy shroud of Turin tend to be space technicians from NASA.

There is an inveterate and insatiable human appetite for wonders and monsters. St Paul found that even the Athenians, the intellectuals of his age, spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing, preferably a prodigy for the silly season. Mendez Pina, Munchausen, Sir John Mandeville, Casagiro, Salamanazar, Tom Keating and the forgers of the Hitler diaries are a tiny fraction of the golden horde who have profited from our bottomless credulity.

No sooner had the French Revolution abolished superstition and brought in the Age of Reason, than it introduced a rational republican religion. And hence pious bogus it was too. Carlyle and Robespierre's new deity inferior to a Mumbo-Jumbo of the African woods. A fellow Jacobin said: "With your *Etre Suprême* you are beginning to be a bore."

But let us not be smug about this. Reason is good, and irrationality is bad. We must do our best to maximize reason and diminish irrationality. But man is not a very rational animal. All of us, even the most hard-headed, are bundles of superstitions and silliness. We may be able to sneer at astrology and put out our tongues at Nessie. But with us on our blind sides, and you will find us trembling. Look at the depressing popularity of pernicious cults that make Robespierre's Mumbo-Jumbo look sensible. Consider the modern "scientific" Mumbo-Jumbo of much psychology, linguistics, sociology. Why, even I have been known to shiver with a sense of evil at the Lion Gate of Mycenae.





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## WHY SO SECRETIVE?

Freemasonry, a secretive (not secret) society, has had a fairly benign reputation in this country. Unlike its continental derivatives it has drawn down neither the anathema of the church nor the proscription of the state. Conspiracy theorists have sniffed at it but have not run riot. It has enjoyed the benefit of the Englishman's indulgence towards eccentricity. From the outside, on the observable evidence, it looks like something people get into in order to get different things out of: moral uplift, the frisson of the occult, mystic theatre (its *Magic Flute* dimension), a channel for charitable activity, the roatarian pleasures of life, business or professional insurance, a leg up in the world.

Yet it has run into a bad patch as regards the public estimation in which it is held. The sharpest thing to hit it so far is the assessment written by Mr Albert Lougharne, deputy commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, in the form of advice to the members of his force to be incorporated in a new handbook of professional behaviour. The advice, to state it baldly, is that the "prescient" officer will steer clear of freemasonry.

The attraction of freemasonry for police officers, especially the senior ranks, troubles the minds of other policemen for several reasons. There have been attested cases of policemen coming into the company of criminals in their masonic lodges, where in the atmosphere of secrecy and fraternity, the contact has degenerated into criminal association. There is the fairly common suspicion that some policemen who are masons

improperly favour other policemen who are masons, especially in selection and promotion; and that improper influence may extend to police committees. And there is the suspicion that in their dealings with members of the public policemen who are masons may be inclined to show similar favour.

The Lougharne advice points out that much of this is conjecture, unsupported by evidence, but "some of the assertions have been supportable and the activities of some freemasons have been thought, on reasonable grounds, to be motivated by self interest and not committed to the declared aims of freemasonry". Therefore, although an officer who is a freemason may take great care to ensure that that does not influence him in the exercise of his police powers, "he may find it impossible to convince a member of the public, or a colleague who is not a freemason, that this is always so". In other words membership of the institution compromises the policeman's necessary appearance of impartiality, and so it is desirable that a policeman should not be a freemason.

If that conclusion is fair it is important, since it would apply *fortiori* to the judiciary and magistracy. It would apply also to civil servants with discretionary functions and at other points in the public service. Is it a fair conclusion?

Mr Lougharne is aware that he has to show that there is something about freemasonry to negative the appearance of impartiality, something which does not belong to other private, and selective bodies; otherwise his argument carries him much

too far for comfort. He finds it in the incompatibility of "the constable's loyal oath or declaration of impartiality" with "the sworn obligation to keep freemasonry's secrets (which holds inevitably the implication that loyalty to fellow freemasons may supersede others)".

When syntax and even spelling come under strain it is often a sign that the logic they are struggling to express is falling apart itself. So here. There is no obvious implication that an oath to keep secrets about a society creates an obligation to be partial in favour of members of the society in a situation external to the society where there already exists a sworn obligation to act impartially. Some freemasons may carry on like that. They would be very much at fault, but the fault is theirs and not in any obvious or direct way the fault of freemasonry.

So one is left with the aura of secrecy, which is what gives rise or gives body to the not uncommon suspicion that freemasons cannot be trusted to act impartially between their fellows and the rest. It is a suspicion the police, who have a large task ahead in clearing themselves of that type of generalized suspicion whatever its source, do well to take seriously. It would help them, and help freemasonry itself with its public face, if the institution were to drop its secretiveness and be more open about its objects and practices. The Duke of Kent, its royal patron and a high office holder, spoke earlier this year as if a change in that direction could be expected. The need for it is greater now even than when he spoke.

If such contradictions continue, one thing is certain: there won't be an industrial future.

Shirley Williams, President, Social Democratic Party, 4 Cowley Street, SW1, September 4.

## Industrial future put in doubt

From the President of the SDP

Sir, It is very hard to believe that the Government's left hand knows what its right hand is doing, and vice versa.

In response to urgent representations from industry that shortage of skills in information technology are now so serious they could threaten our future markets, the Department of Trade and Industry established a committee under John Butcher, MP, its Parliamentary Under Secretary of State.

In its recommendations last month on measures to meet immediate skill needs, the Butcher committee cited the importance of distance-learning techniques in general, and specifically praised the SERC/Open University scheme to provide masters courses in manufacturing and in the industrial applications of computers.

Meanwhile, in another department's part of the field, the Open University, which has taught a quarter of a million people through distance-learning, is fighting the biggest cuts in its short life, £13.5m over the next three years, the most severe of any higher education institution.

Future course development is one of the areas likely to be reduced, including computer courses. The courses recommended by Mr Butcher are under review and their future may depend on the Science and Engineering Research Council's ability to continue its pump-priming grant. I forgot to add: the SERC's budget is being cut in real terms, too.

If there is to be an industrial future for Britain we will need far more and far better qualified men and women. So says the Government. Meanwhile the Government itself cuts the budgets for universities, civil research and further education, axing deadwood and saplings alike.

Such contradictions continue: one thing is certain: there won't be an industrial future.

Shirley Williams, President, Social Democratic Party, 4 Cowley Street, SW1, September 4.

## Survival of literacy

From Mr Andrew Blum

Sir, The criticism of declining standards of book production, expressed by Mr A. Griffin (September 1) though largely justified, appears to miss the point.

Luxury services such as craft bookbinding will always exist so long as there are people rich enough to pay for them. The more important question is not the survival of traditional standards of book production, but the survival of literacy.

Cheap methods, whether nasty or otherwise, help to maintain the mass circulation of the printed word, which, with all its dangers, remains the basis of our form of civilisation.

I might prefer to receive an illuminated manuscript each morning instead of a copy of your newspaper, but economic factors compel us all to be satisfied with a compromise in production standards in favour of more important considerations.

Yours faithfully, ANDREW BLUM, 22 Weston Park, Thames Ditton, Surrey, September 1.

## Killings in Iran

From the Most Reverend Dr Trevor Huddleston

Sir, Your correspondent's account (August 29) of the killings of some of the 300,000 Iranian Bahais makes horrifying reading, even in these days of mass murders by governments.

Certainly if this account is true it is intolerable to the Christian conscience that the EEC Committee should think of easing economic sanctions against Iran whilst the oppression of minority religious groups continues.

But it is not time - and more than time - that all Christians, Jews, Buddhists and Muslims made an effective protest on behalf of the Bahais. No religious group that I know of has been more consistent in its witness to peaceful, non-violent means of persuasion nor more tolerant of religious diversity.

Obedience to lawful government, even when that government uses its power to kill its adversaries, is a cardinal principle of the Bahai faith. We cannot let these martyrdoms occur and remain silent.

Yours faithfully, TREVOR HUDDLESTON, St James's Vestry, 197 Piccadilly, W1, August 31.

## The miners' dispute

From Dr E. F. C. P. de Bono

Sir, There seem to be three types of negotiating meetings.

1. Where there has to be an outcome: for example negotiating the terms of surrender or the steps in a transfer of power.

2. Where there has been a change in conditions: for example new circumstances, new ingredients or a new realism that dissipates any hope of outright victory. Under the new conditions what was previously unacceptable can become acceptable (with suitable cosmetics).

3. Where there is a creative and constructive effort to make reconcilable what is irreconcilable.

A leading article yesterday stated that the National and Local Government Officers' Association had supported a motion at the TUC Congress calling for non-participation in the National Economic Development Council. Nalco opposed the motion.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Tangled skeins in liberation theology

From Dr Giles Mercer

Sir, In the controversy over liberation theology there are three distinct issues which some of your correspondents seem to have tangled.

The first is the question of how far the institutions of Church and state or, more widely, of the spiritual and temporal powers should impinge upon each other. This is a matter that has profoundly affected Christianity from the start and is evident, for example, in the struggle which surrounded the papal states until 1929 and in the medieval practice, vigorously opposed at times, of churchmen serving in civil office.

The current matter of priests holding posts in Latin American governments is merely the latest manifestation of a tension that may never be resolved.

The second issue concerns what the clerical order should do when it abhors the policies and actions of a regime.

Should it confine itself to the provision of spiritual comforts to the faithful, as it did to a large extent during the era of European fascism? Should it go further and use the pulpit to lift the morale of the oppressed and give measured encouragement to every kind of peaceful demonstration, as in Poland? Or should it go yet further and lend its active support to the overthrow of the regime, by force if necessary, using the argument of a just war (defined by St Augustine and developed by Aquinas)?

It is doubtful whether a ruling over this whole issue could be laid down to suit all circumstances at all times.

The third issue is whether Marxism and Christian theology are compatible. Christian theologians have, of course, borrowed concepts and language from non-Christian thought in the past, notably Platonism and Aristotelianism, but only as aids to a clearer exposition of Christian doctrine. Marxism cannot be so used, since, in essentials, it

runs counter to Christianity, for reasons which are admirably advanced by Cardinal Ratzinger.

To subtract Marxism from liberation theology will be, one suspects, the least of Rome's problems. It will still be left with the decision of what the "preferential option for the poor" is to mean in practice.

Yours faithfully, GILES MERCER, 5 Honeycombe Rise, Sherborne, Dorset, September 4.

From the Reverend Father J. F. Wellington

Sir, Mr Robert Davis's lengthy reply (September 4) to Fr Nichols (August 29) falls flat on its face at the final hurdle. In his ultimate paragraph he heralds the "belief of many Catholics that the process at work in Latin America offers us the possibility of a Church freed from a dubious contract with political power". Is it not this very contract which is at issue in the case of the priest in the Nicaraguan government?

On what theological grounds can he differentiate between "a priest seeking office in an advanced democracy" and one in a "post-revolutionary crisis"? No doubt the Church in Nicaragua has a moral duty to lend its considerable weight to the building of a just society, but this does not necessitate the personal involvement of its priesthood in the secular power.

Such involvement, whether in Latin America or Europe, serves only to diminish the Church's proper prophetic role, thereby granting a spiritual absolutism to the prevailing temporal order. Therein lies an inherent danger of begetting the kind of dubious contract which both Mr Davis and I abhor.

Yours sincerely, J. F. WELLINGTON, Parish of St Luke Stocking Farm, Halifax Drive, Stocking Farm Estate, Leicester, September 4.

### Church and state

From the Reverend Jonathan P. Eades

Sir, I was interested to read Fr Aidan Nichols's letter (August 29) saying that the Code of Canon Law of the Latin Church, of which the Pope is patriarch, forbids clerics from holding political office. But I am not sure that this really answers the point made by the Subdean of Lincoln (August 25).

The fact is that the Pope holds political office as head of the Vatican state, which to the outsider looks very much like an instance (albeit a last vestige) of the theocratic clericalism which Fr Aidan criticises. Not only does the Vatican receive duly accredited ambassadors, but sends them to countries which will receive them in the form of papal nuncios. Such nuncios are usually archbishops - prelates whose quasi-political office and status prevent them holding more than a titular see, which is surely an anomaly if ever there was one.

When the present Pope travels abroad he does so as a head of state and, when politically expedient, is received as such. His speeches are often designed to carry political clout, his visits designed to promote the Vatican's foreign concerns and relations.

### Uniting Ireland

From Mr Jim Davidson

Sir, Phillip Whitehead (feature, August 28) strikes a note of sanity and realism on Ireland which is unusual for the Labour Party.

He rightly identifies the naive simplicities of the Labour left with regard to Ireland. Tony Benn's Bill for terminating British jurisdiction over Northern Ireland, for example, would not lead to a united Ireland as he appears to imagine but to an independent Protestant state in the north-east corner of Ireland (after civil war and re-partition) but he doesn't appear to realize this.

Conceivably a united Ireland could be imposed by British military forces, but it will certainly not be achieved by British abandoning sovereignty and withdrawing her military forces.

As David Morrison (August 27) pointed out the official Labour Party line of Irish unity by consent is equally naive: it is impossible to conceive of a programme which would persuade a majority in the North of the advantages of leaving the UK for an independent united Ireland at this moment in time. Even if Britain undertook to fund economic harmonization throughout the British Isles on a permanent basis, which seems to be what Clive Solis is suggesting (feature, August 15), even if a pluralist state were established in the South - both of which seem extremely unlikely - what advantage would there be to people who already live in a pluralist state with UK standards of welfare as of right?

I am not criticising this, but I am saying that the central organism of the Roman Catholic Church, as presently constituted, presents a very political face to the world.

It is not surprising that when the present Pope intervenes in the case of a clerical holding political office in a particular country many view his actions as relating to the Vatican's wider political concerns. In the Vatican's eyes it may legitimately be said to be a matter of upholding and enforcing canon law, but to lesser mortals not versed in canon law and sceptical of the Vatican's motives it will seem sometimes arbitrary and high-handed.

Canon law may distinguish between the natural order of society and the supernatural order of the Christian society, but in practice there is often a large area of overlap, especially in areas to do with education, morality, poverty and so on. When such overlap occurs what may seem to one party an ecclesiastical or theological issue will be seen by another as a more overtly political one.

Yours faithfully, JONATHAN EADES, (Anglican Chaplain, Dundee University), 7 Roseapple, Dundee, August 30.

In my view Northern Ireland will remain in the UK for the foreseeable future and the question that needs to be addressed is how best to govern it therein so that sectarian divisions are ameliorated as far as possible.

Phillip Whitehead advocates that the Labour Party take members from Northern Ireland. That is surely a step in the right direction, a step which, if the other national parties were to do the same, has the potential for shifting the focus of politics here away from the local sectarian division towards the question of who should govern the UK.

All of us in Northern Ireland are interested in that now, whatever preference we have for the ultimate constitutional future of the province.

Yours sincerely, JIM DAVIDSON, Belfast 7, Northern Ireland.

### Table talk

From Mr J. A. Greenbank

Sir, Today I heard this year's first Christmas lunch mentioned. What ever happened to Christmas dinner and, come to think of it, Sunday dinner?

Do people who have lunch on Christmas Day and Sunday really have an even larger meal in the evening?

Yours faithfully, J. A. GREENBANK, 37 Devonshire Avenue, Leeds, West Yorkshire, August 29.

of plate glass, however, overlooks the fact that the miners are doing more than withdrawing their labour. In trying physically to prevent the use of alternative supplies of coal and other energy the NUM is interfering in parts of the free market in which it has no business.

A totally free market in energy in this country, i.e., a market free of subsidies to the NCB, CEGB, etc, would almost certainly result in closure of very many more pits than is currently proposed.

To its credit, however, the Government has not proposed abolition of subsidies to the NCB. Public investment in the pits has continued in spite of over-production and appears, albeit on a reduced scale, to be set to continue.

Yours faithfully, J. A. C. PARKIN, R & A Young Strip Mining, Tanfield Lea Industrial Estate, Stanley, Co Durham.

### No need to bow to Yalta betrayal

From Sir Bernard Braine, MP for Castle Point (Conservative)

Sir, Your Correspondent's article (September 1) on the Yalta conference reminds us that the roots of much of the misunderstanding and insecurity bedevilling East-West relations since 1945 lie deeply embedded in the Soviet Union's unilateral repudiation of what was agreed by Stalin, Roosevelt and Churchill and its brutal subjugation of once independent nations.

While the Soviet need for security must always be recognised, there is no reason at all why the West should accept the betrayal of Yalta as permanent. President Mitterrand made the point clearly in 1982: President Reagan has done so more recently. Only Britain is silent.

And what of the West's security? Mr Owen reminds us of the massive sacrifices the Soviet peoples made in the common struggle to rid Europe of Nazism, but equally we should remember that the war itself had begun with the cynical carve-up of Poland by Hitler and Stalin which made all the easier the subsequent invasion and occupation of western Europe.

As for the Soviet belief, mentioned by your correspondent, that Washington and Bonn wish to alter the frontiers agreed at Yalta, the real argument is not about territorial frontiers at all: it is about freedom - the rights of Poles and others to determine their own destiny, to hold free elections and not to be ruled by Moscow's puppets.

The only "frontiers" the enslaved nations and their friends wish to change are the Berlin-type walls, barbed wire and minefields which communism has to erect because it cannot exist without them.

Surely, the time is ripe to tell the peoples of East/Central Europe not to lose hope and that all of us in the West (and that includes Britain) do not accept that the betrayal of Yalta is permanent.

Yours faithfully, BERNARD BRAINE, House of Commons, September 5.

### Turkish trials

From Mr C. J. Arthur

Sir, May I add some points to today's leader (August 17) on the trial of the Turkish intellectuals.

First, the petition that caused their arrest was explicitly framed so as to be within the law - particularly the notorious Law 2969, which prohibits any criticism of measures taken by the Council of National Security.

It contains no sentiments which any democratic could disagree. Yet the police sprang into action immediately. In spite of the fact that the 1,236 signatories gave their names and addresses, many were woken up in the middle of the night to be taken away for interrogation. Truly, the secret police seem unable to bear the light of day.

Secondly, we have the irony that the fear of a long drawn-out trial you express in your leader is itself a feature of their offence: they say "delayed justice is injustice" and they appeal for a speedy conclusion of all outstanding trials.

Thirdly, they appeal for a general amnesty. This reminds us that General Genset's recent aim was to free Polish traitors, unionists and intellectuals. Why cannot General Evren release Turkish trade unionists and intellectuals?

Of course, Poland acted under American pressure. No such pressure from the American or British governments has been applied to Turkey. The hypocritical leaders of the "free world" put geopolitics first and human rights a long way behind.

Yours faithfully, C. J. ARTHUR, School of Social Sciences, University of Sussex, Arts Building, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex, August 17.

### Flower power

From Mr Theo Sanger

Sir, I fear that the article by your Agriculture Correspondent (August 25), "Menace that blooms by the motorways", is just the sort of report that could well inspire some misguided civil servant to order the spraying of all motorway verges from Striding to Exeter.

The wonder of the motorway is that there are no pedestrians to damage the marvellous profusion of fauna and flora, rare and common, that has been allowed to flourish. Ragwort, for example, is the home of the beautiful Cinnabar moth (*Tyria jacobaeae*), its body marked with alternate rings of black and orange.

In the past we farmers have dealt with belladonna, yew, ragwort and many other potentially dangerous plants in our pastures without relying on the heavy use of herbicides on adjoining non-agricultural land, and I am certain we shall be able to do so again.

Yours faithfully, T. SANGER, Brookside, Whitebrook, Monmouth, Gwent, August 27.

### Not cricket?

From Mrs Barbara D. Clarence

Sir, As a non-cricketing housewife, may I reply to Lord Swaythling (September 4) that it is not the state of the ball that worries me, but the state of the cricketers' trousers. I agree with him that the practice should stop. My reason is perhaps more practical - and heartfelt.

Yours faithfully, BARBARA D. CLARENCE, Greenways, Church Hill, Buckhorn Weston, Gillingham, Dorset.

## AN ACID REPORT

A corrosive report on acid rain from a Commons select committee, followed by a caustic rejoinder from the Central Electricity Generating Board, warning that its proposals are based on fundamental errors and might raise electricity prices by ten per cent; there is urgent need for a reliable litmus paper to indicate where sweet-flavoured truth lies between these harsh extremes. Meanwhile all over Europe trees are withering, fish are dying and stonework is crumbling in the rain that falls while the issue is energetically and endlessly debated. Relations between Canada and the USA have been soured by the problem, and even the Soviet Union, by far the largest producer of acid pollution in Europe, has recently conceded that pollution is not merely an ailment of capitalism. The British government's attitude to all this is felt by some of our neighbours to be complacent, and marked by a certain studied nonchalance.

No such criticism can be made of the select committee's report. At the outset it declares its intention of using the words "acid rain" in "their widest and most inaccurate sense" and thenceforward feels free to censure witnesses sharply if their evidence treats them in a narrower sense. It contrives to draw grounds for anxiety from the most relaxed of evidence, and pounces like a hawk on gaps in research (no study has been made, it points out, of the possible dangers to pregnant women of eating Galloway pike,

however, "the same danger does not exist in respect of trout").

Much of this is lurid stuff, and in truth the effects of pollution are unpleasant, sometimes dangerous, and often expensive to repair. But the report's indiscriminating approach makes little attempt to apportion blame for different effects, or to match either the form or cost of its proposals with the evils to be remedied. It is little concerned with distinguishing between localised urban pollution, and those long-distance effects, often involving complex and little-understood chemical processes, which have aroused most recent international concern.

The committee find it a simple matter to say what Britain should be doing about all this. Sulphur emissions here have already been cut since 1970 by more than the 30 per cent to which other nations (none of which has as good a record as ours) have now committed themselves. But the committee point out accurately that this reduction was made chiefly by general industry and hardly at all by electricity generation, which in 1964 accounted for less than half the national sulphur output, but today causes twice as much as all other sources together. Therefore the entire burden of the proposed reduction in pollution - not of 30 per cent by 1995 but of 60 - is placed on the power stations. Car manufacturers are severely criticized for taking too little account of the serious effects caused by ozone derived from nitrogen emissions

from vehicles - but then the committee forgets about nitrogen and lets the car industry off without any definite call for tighter controls. Curiously enough, the MPs show no eagerness to see our highly sulphured, home-mined coal replaced by imports or by more nuclear power.

Superficial as it is to load all the burden on one culprit, and one chemical, it can be taken for granted that the CEB's anguished reaction to the report contains an element of special pleading. Even granting its assumptions, a ten per cent increase in electricity prices between now and 1995 is not necessarily a prospect to make the blood run cold (how much have they gone up since 1973?). In the continuing effort to reduce pollution in the years ahead, the power stations will certainly have to make a major contribution. The developing technology of fluidised bed combustion promises in the medium term to allow great reductions in power station pollution and better economy of operation at the same time. The "lean-burn" engine promises a similar leap forward in vehicle technology. Shorter term remedies, like retrofitting of power stations, tend to be costly both in installation and in reduced efficiency.

On present evidence, the problem is of an urgency which dictates steady advance towards the major improvements which are in clear prospect, but not hasty measures to bring quicker reductions at far higher cost.

Spaniards the right to work and reside there without delay. That suggestion will hardly be welcome in Gibraltar, where the imminent transfer of the naval dockyard to commercial use has caused nearly 800 redundancies. But in spite of this there is general overemployment in Gibraltar, with several thousand expatriate workers, mostly British and Moroccan. The exclusion of Spain from this labour market is an anomaly which Spain has brought on herself, but which clearly should be corrected on economic as well as political grounds.

If we insist on applying the full transitional period in Gibraltar, there is obviously a danger that Spain on its side will insist on phasing out the frontier controls equally gradually. For Britain to meet such a threat with a counterthreat of vetoing Spain's entry altogether would surely be to allow a relatively small disagreement to do a disproportionate amount of damage to the EEC, to Nato (which Spain might easily leave on the rebound from a rebuff by the EEC), and most of all to Gibraltar itself.

Spain accepts that EEC membership must entail free movement of goods and persons in both directions. Indeed she is keen to take advantage of this as soon as possible to gain access for her own nationals to the labour market both in Gibraltar and elsewhere in the EEC. But for the EEC as a whole it is accepted that this access will be granted only after a fairly long transitional period: the Community is at present proposing seven years, while Spain is arguing for a review after five. In exchange for the full opening of the frontier, Spain is suggesting that Britain should waive the transitional period as far as Gibraltar is concerned, giving

## THE ROCK BECOMES AN OBSTACLE

Something of a crisis has now been reached in the negotiations over Spanish entry into the European Community. A special meeting of the Community's council of ministers is to be held in Dublin early next week to discuss the issue, and the Spanish prime minister, Senor Felipe Gonzalez, is to visit Dublin the week after next for talks with the Irish leaders who currently occupy the Community chair.

After that visit, London will be the only EEC capital. Senor Gonzalez has not been to since he took office at the end of 1982. The omission can hardly be the result of oversight, though it is true that Spanish membership poses fewer direct economic problems for Britain than for almost any other member-state and that politically Spain has enjoyed British support from the start. But what should be a close entente between London and Madrid remains a cool and awkward relationship because of the Gibraltar problem.

Both sides hope that Spain's entry into the EEC will ease that problem, but there is a lurking





## COURT CIRCULAR

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
September 6: The Duke of Gloucester opened the Kensington Palace Residential Training Centre near Kettering, Northamptonshire, this morning.

Lieutenant-Colonel Sir Simon Bland was in attendance.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
September 6: The Duke of Kent today visited the Farnborough International '84 Air Show.

His Royal Highness, who travelled in an aircraft of the Queen's Flight, was attended by Sir Richard Buckley.

The Queen will open Parliament on November 6.

Princess Anne will open New College, Swindon, on September 18 and the Woolton Bassett section station of the Wiltshire Police.

The Duke of Edinburgh, as President of the Federation of Equestre Internationale, will attend meetings in Egypt between October 6 and 10.

The King of the Belgians is 54 today.

Lady Sheffield gave birth to a son on September 14 at Scunthorpe General Hospital.

**Marriages**  
Viscount Petersham and Anita Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire.

The marriage took place yesterday on board SY Surama in Nandi Waters, Fiji, of Viscount Petersham and Anita Countess of Suffolk and Berkshire.

Mr J. N. Arbuthnot and Miss E. L. Broadbent.

The marriage took place at St James's Piccadilly, yesterday of Mr James Arbuthnot, son of Sir John Arbuthnot, Bt, and Lady Arbuthnot, of Poulton Manor, Ash, Canterbury, and Miss Emma Louise Broadbent, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Broadbent, of 50 Quarrendon Street, SW6. The Rev Lord Sandford officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of white silk with inserts of pink and blue. Her hair was styled in a blue wash. Her headpiece and bouquet were of pink, white and blue flowers. Miss Helena Laidlaw and Miss Joanna Laidlaw attended her. Mr William Arbuthnot, brother of the bridegroom, was best man.

A reception was held at Christie's SW1, and the honeymoon will be spent in India.

Mr G. Chung and Miss C. F. Leach.

The marriage took place on September 1, at St Edmund of Canterbury Church, Whitton, Twickenham, of Mr Gilbert Chung, only son of Sir See-yuen Chung, of Hongkong, and the late Mrs Nancy Chung, and Miss Carol Frances Leach, eldest twin daughter of Mr and Mrs A. C. Leach, of Whitton, Twickenham.

Mr G. A. Swain and Mrs J. D. Lufford.

The marriage took place in Gosham on September 1 of Mr Gosham Swain and Mrs Jean Lufford.

## First gold medal for ground-cover rose

By Alan Toogood,  
Horticulture Correspondent

Several new award-winning roses are appearing at the Royal National Rose Society's two-day autumn show in Westminster which opened yesterday.

The President's International Trophy and Gold Medal winner is a light red cluster-flowered variety under the name of "Dickinson", raised by Dickinson's Nurseries, of Northern Ireland, and to be introduced by R. Harkness, of Hitchin.

Gold medals have also been awarded to another Dickinson rose, a "hand-painted" pink cluster-flowered variety code-named "Dickery", also to be introduced by Harkness; and to the light pink ground-cover variety named "Grouse", raised by Kordes, of West Germany, and to be introduced by John Mattock, of Oxford.

It is the first time that a ground-cover rose has featured in the society's awards list. Another, the white "Partridge", raised by Kordes and to be introduced by Mattock, won a certificate of merit. The Henry Edmond Medal for fragrance went to an Ivory-pink shrub rose.



Brother Wilfrid, a blind Franciscan who helps at the gardens of the Royal National College for the Blind at Hereford, appreciating some roses at the show yesterday (Photograph: Bill Warburton)

raised and to be introduced by David Austin Roses, of Wolverhampton.

Among the trade exhibits at the show, Candy's Roses, of Rugby, won the Autumn Roses Challenge Cup and are showing several pastel-colored varieties now in vogue, and their own hybrid tea "Lover's Meeting" vermillion-orange with bronze foliage.

John Mattock, of Oxford, won the

RRNS Challenge Trophy for his clean fresh blooms and rose hips. Yellow varieties, such as "Korresia" and "Simba", have performed well in the drought. The leading new cluster-flowered yellow "Scaldrige" is also at the show.

The Jubilee Trophy went to Gregory's Roses, of Stapleford, who are exhibiting a wide range of miniature roses. Gold medals have been awarded to E. B. LeGrice, of North Walsham, who is showing the new Boribunda "Amber Queen"; and Camis, of Colchester, for the new pink hybrid tea St Helena and the new large-flowered coral-pink "Mary Donaldson".

Leading prize-winners in the competitive classes are: Mr. T. M. Jones, of Birmingham, who won the President's International Trophy for his new rose "Dickinson"; Mr. J. H. Harkness, of Hitchin, who won the Gold Medal for his new rose "Dickinson"; and Mr. J. Harkness, of Hitchin, who won the Gold Medal for his new rose "Dickinson".

The show is open today from 10 am to 5 pm.

## OBITUARY

### ARTHUR SCHWARTZ

#### Contribution to the American musical

Arthur Schwartz, the American composer, who died in Kentucky on September 3 at the age of 84, is perhaps best remembered for his collaboration with the lyric writer Howard Dietz, particularly for their 1931 classic show *The Bandwagon*, and the 1953 film of the same title, both starring Fred Astaire.

He was born in Brooklyn in 1900, and seemed destined for the law, in which he qualified at New York University in 1924. His music was a spare time interest, but when he was 25 he wrote songs for his first New York show, *Grand Street Folies*. Subsequently he wrote many songs for vaudeville and by 1929 was able to give up his law practice.

He had meanwhile met Howard Dietz and in 1929 they had their first Broadway show, and first big hit, in *The First Little Show*, starring Libby Holman, Clifton Webb and Fred Astaire.

They next wrote the score for a forgotten London musical comedy *Here Comes the Bride* and the New York show *Three's a Crowd* which gave us one of the earliest Dietz and Schwartz standards, "Something to Remember You By".

The year 1931 brought the original stage *Bandwagon*, often regarded as the best of all American revues. The book was

entirely by George S. Kaufman, and all the songs by Dietz and Schwartz. The most famous of them was "Dancing in the Dark".

Dietz and Schwartz continued to dominate the Broadway intimate revue throughout the 30s, with further hits like *Flying Colours* (1932), *At Home Abroad* (1935), the last of which included, improbably, B. Lillie and Ethel Waters, as though to stretch the songwriter's range to the uttermost. They also did well with the book shows like *Revenge with Albus* (1934).

Dietz and Schwartz also became involved in 1934 in a radio serial - the only one known with a fully fledged original score - called *The Gibson Family*; for this they wrote no fewer than 90 songs during its run.

With Dietz involved as an executive at MGM Schwartz started to look elsewhere for a partner. In 1937 he wrote a musical called *Virginia* with Albert Stillman to no great success but his 1939 show *Stars in Your Eyes* with Dorothy Fields lyrics and starring Ethel Merman, produced some of his best - though not necessarily best known - songs like "Just a Little Bit More" and "I'll Pay the Check". He also worked with Oscar Hammerstein II on the 1939 World Fair Spectacular American Jubilee.

During the war he spent most of his time in Hollywood, writing songs for such films as *Thank Your Lucky Stars* and *The Time, The Place and the Girl*, and produced two films, *Night and Day*, a fictional biography of Cole Porter, and *Cover Girl*, with a score by Jerome Kern.

After the war he was back to Broadway, first for *Park Avenue* with lyrics by Ira Gershwin, then for a reunion with Dietz for another hit revue, *Inside USA* in 1948.

Probably the best of Schwartz's postwar music was to be found in the two shows he wrote with Dorothy Fields for Shirley Booth. *A Tree Grows in Brooklyn* and *By the Beautiful Sea*, both charming, but nostalgic, and far removed from the sharpness of the Dietz and Schwartz shows.

Perhaps the apotheosis was the film of *The Bandwagon*, (1953) which gathered together most of the best Dietz and Schwartz songs brought Fred Astaire and Jack Buchanan together to sing and dance to them, and reminded new generations that Arthur Schwartz, if not so celebrated as Cole Porter, Richard Rodgers and Irving Berlin, wrote music just as unforgettable and made his own distinctive contribution to the American musical theatre.

### PROF J. P. COLLAS

Professor J. P. Collas, one of the leading philologists of his generation died in Dorset on August 13.

Born in 1911 into a Guernsey family speaking the local patois, he showed an early interest in the French language which seemed to destined him for an academic career. From Elizabeth College, St Peter Port, he won an Exhibition to Jesus College, Oxford, obtaining his BA in 1932. The next few years were spent on research into the Norman-French patois of the Channel Islands and bore fruit in his BLitt (1934).

Appointed to Manchester University in 1936, he moved in the following year to Glasgow University where he remained until the outbreak of war. A man of high humanitarian principles and a fervent pacifist, he was a conscientious objector. He returned to Manchester in 1946, but took up an appointment in 1947 as Lecturer in French at Queen Mary College, University of London, where he remained for the rest of his career, becoming Professor and Head of Department in 1953. He retired in 1976 and devoted his leisure to his lexical researches.

From his early concern with his local patois, Collas developed his linguistic interests in various directions. His extensive study of Jersey French, which included the patois of Sark, was never quite completed, though it was made available to interested scholars.

From the present-day Norman of the Channel Islands he extended his linguistic field back to the Middle Ages to become the principal Anglo-Norman scholar of the day. He worked closely for some twenty years on the *Anglo-Norman Dictionary*, now in course of publication.

He made Anglo-Norman law especially his own, publishing three volumes of the *Year Books of Edward II* for the Seldon Society, vol 81 containing his classic study of the "Problems of Language and Interpretation". His prominence led to consultation by various scholars and bodies, including on one occasion the Supreme Court of Canada.

Medieval French linguistics led to Medieval French literature, which he taught regularly, though only an occasional paper, such as that on the romance hero in the *Miniver Miscellany*, testified to his literary acumen and scholarship. Following the lead of his admired master, Vinaver, he broadened his activity into modern French, as is revealed by his feat of teaching the two London Special Subjects of Arthurian Romance and Proust in one and the same year.

He is survived by his devoted, kindly and vivacious wife Gaby Cassel.

### MISS DORA LABBETTE

Dora Labbette, the noted British soprano of the interwar years, died on September 3. She was born in Furry in 1898, and studied at the Guildhall School of Music, going on to work with the composer Lisa Lehmann.

The first part of her career was entirely devoted to concert and recital work. She first met Sir Thomas Beecham, who was to have a profound influence on her life, in 1927, when she recorded *The Messiah* with him. He taught her an appreciation of Delius's songs, of which she became an accomplished interpreter, and she took part in the premiere of his *Idyll* in 1933.

In 1935 Beecham persuaded her to start an operatic career. He persuaded her to take on a role by introducing her to the Covent Garden public as Lisa Perli. At first, there was surprised interest at this new and attractive "Italian" soprano, but more knowledgeable patrons soon saw and heard through the disguise. Later she rationalised her "bit of fun" by saying that as opera was a new career for her she needed a new name, and it was as Lisa Perli.

### MR LEONID KOSTANDOV

Mr Leonid Kostandov, a deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and a member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party, died suddenly on September 5 at the age of 68 during an official visit to East Germany.

Leonid Arkadyevich Kostandov was born into a professional family on November 27, 1915, in what is now the Soviet Republic of Turkmenia. In 1940 he graduated from the Moscow Institute of Chemical Machine-Construction and in 1942 joined the Communist Party.

Upon his graduation, he worked for 13 years in the electro-chemical industry as an engineer, and, ultimately, factory manager before moving into a senior administrative post in the Ministry of Chemical Industry in 1953.

### MR DONNY MACLEOD

Donny MacLeod, presenter of the television lunchtime programme, *Pebble Mill at One*, died yesterday at his home in Aberdeen at the age of 52. He recently underwent surgery for the removal of a tumour. He was due to launch the new season of the programme next week.

He had been scheduled to co-present *Rollercoaster* on Radio 4 yesterday, his place being taken at short notice by the author, Jeffrey Archer.

Donny MacLeod was born in Stornoway, where he was educated at the Nicolson Institute before going on the London University and Gray's School of

that she recorded Mimi's Farewell and Act 4 of *La Bohème* in a famous performance later transferred to record, with Heddle Nash as her Rodolfo as at Covent Garden, and Beecham - of course - conducting.

She went on to add Desdemona, Mignon and Melisande to her stage portrayals, while continuing her concert career. One of her last appearances was in *The Seasons* with Beecham at Sydney in 1940, although she continued to sing intermittently in public for some time after that.

Her voice had a clear, crystalline quality that gave it, particularly in earlier years, an almost other-worldly, ethereal timbre, with the high notes perfectly focussed and almost uncannily floated. The fresh and unsophisticated sound was obviously matched to a keen musical mind and an innate sense of artistry, which was much appreciated wherever she appeared.

Her records, particularly *La Bohème* Delius's songs, and *The Messiah*, are a fair memento of a distinguished career.

For virtually the whole of his working life, he was associated with that industry whether as a technologist or as an official and in 1965 he became Minister for the chemical industry. Kostandov held that position until 1980 when he was promoted one of the deputy chairmen of the Council of Ministers of the USSR.

After serving five years as a candidate member of the Communist Party's Central Committee, he became a full member in 1971. His party standing, however, derived from his technical knowledge and important ministerial post. With his elevation to a deputy chairmanship of the Council of Ministers, his responsibilities to the sphere of management of the Soviet economy were broadened in the last years of his life.

### MR DONNY MACLEOD

Art in Aberdeen. He was later a naval officer and a teacher. He served on Stornoway town council and twice, in 1959 and 1964, stood unsuccessfully for Parliament as Liberal candidate for the Western Isles.

He left the teaching profession to start his broadcasting career with BBC Radio in Scotland in 1968. After a spell with Grampian Television he returned to the BBC, appearing on the television news magazine, *Nationwide*, and joining *Pebble Mill at One* as a regular presenter in 1973. A plump, genial man, he soon established himself as one of television's most professional performers.

### Forthcoming marriages

Mr T. P. Nash and Miss J. M. Smith.

The engagement is announced between Trevor, twin son of Mr and Mrs George Nash, of Banbury, Oxfordshire, and Joanna, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Martin Smith, of Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr J. S. Evans and Miss S. Cavanagh.

The engagement is announced between John Spencer, son of the late Mr Stanley Evans and Mrs Alice Evans, of Blackpool, and Sally, daughter of the late Mr Francis W. Cavanagh and Mrs Igan Cavanagh, of Barnes, London.

Mr N. Mainprize and Miss S. E. Morgan.

The engagement is announced between Nicholas, second son of Mr and Mrs R. Mainprize, of Chalfont, Somerset, and Suzanne Elizabeth, only daughter of Mr J. H. Morgan of Andover, Hampshire, and Mrs A. L. Morgan, of Shepperton, Middlesex.

Mr J. P. Odono and Miss E. E. Margaretson.

The marriage will take place in December between Tim Odono, of 49 Canonbury Park South, London, N1, and Caroline Margaretson, of 60 Radpole Road, London, SW6.

Mr V. T. Parton and Miss D. J. Harrison.

The engagement is announced between Vincent Thomas, son of Mr and Mrs Raymond Parton, of Bray, Berkshire, and Deborah Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs Anthony R. Harrison, of Codsall, Staffordshire.

Mr R. E. Wadell and Miss L. F. B. Golliday.

The engagement is announced between Ross, eldest son of Professor and Mrs A. E. Wadell, of Sheffield, and Lyndee, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Golliday, of Iowa, United States, and Cambridge.

Mr M. J. Trotman and Miss A. J. O'Dell.

The engagement is announced between Michael John, eldest son of Mr and Mrs P. J. Trotman, of Whitechurch, Shropshire, and Alison Julia, younger daughter of Mr R. D. O'Dell, of St John's Wood, London, and Mrs J. P. O'Dell, of Chalfont, Buckinghamshire.

Mr R. S. Wallace and Miss R. J. Toshi.

The engagement is announced between Richard Scott, son of Mr and Mrs Wallace, of New York, and F. Laurender, United States, and Rowena Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs Brian Tosh, of London, NW11.

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### Young pipers to the fore

By Angus Nicol

Competitive piping has become so popular that it is now no easy thing to find the major competitions into two days. A total of 137 pipers competed in 12 events in the Grampian Television meeting at Inverness on Wednesday and yesterday.

Two new events, designed to encourage young pipers to play the pipe, are the MacGregor Memorial Competition named after John MacGregor, of Drumchearg, personal piper to Prince Charles Edward in 1745-46.

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## Changes planned for shuttle's future

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

As the American space shuttle Discovery begins its overhaul after its return to Earth on Wednesday, the scientists and engineers of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) are already preparing for the next voyage, in October. That mission will carry a record number of seven astronauts on board the shuttle, Challenger, which last went into space in February.

In addition to the arrangements for more immediate flights, other groups of experts are planning the long-term direction of space exploration by the United States. One of the most important teams engaged in that work will present to Nasa on Monday its recommendations about the shuttle's future from the mid-1990s.

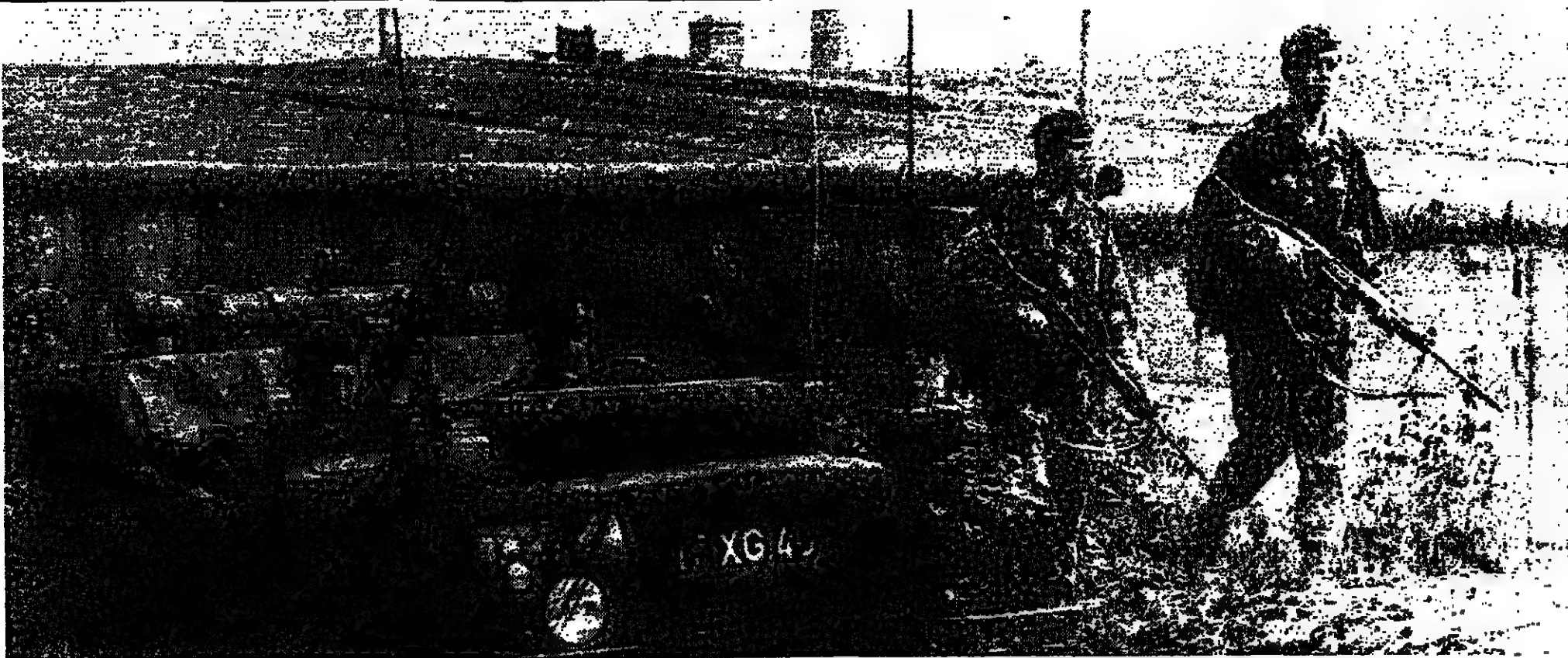
Although attention has focused on the great advantage of the shuttle for launching several satellites on one journey, the main purpose of the reusable vehicle is to ferry lightweight girders and big





# Today's Army

More than 130,000 service personnel are involved in Exercise Lionheart which is now under way to test Britain's ability to reinforce our troops in Europe quickly and in strength.



Watch on the wall: Grenadier Guards on patrol along the frontier near Berlin

THE British Army is in better heart than for many years past. In common with the Royal Air Force it is beginning to see the fruits of a major re-equipment programme planned years ago. In many cases it is not getting the equipment as soon as it would have wished, nor in the numbers it wanted; none the less, it is advancing on several fronts.

When seen in a Nato context, this process of re-equipment is not always as productive as it might be. The achievement of standardization of equipment, or at least inter-operability, between one Nato army and another is a long and slow one.

Both General Leopold Chalupa, the German who is Commander-in-Chief, Allied Forces Central Europe, and General Sir Nigel Bagnall, Commander-in-Chief, British Army of the Rhine, have this summer drawn attention to the problems of matching the equipment and tactics of national armies in such a way as to enable them to cooperate most effectively within Nato.

The classic example of this is in the introduction in this decade of three new main battle tanks for the American, West German and British armies, all with different guns, although there are moves to standardize the German and US guns.

Though other examples of progress towards harmonization of equipment could be cited, Nato seems as far as ever from finding an overall policy to reconcile the military need for as much standardization as possible, with the divergent interests of national and competing industries.

Yet the British Army will benefit greatly over the next few years from the new equipment which is on its way, and there are other factors at work which are favourable to the army.

The affliction of high unemployment among the civilian population and the fact that since the late 1970s, service pay has been brought back into line with the rewards in

comparable civilian jobs has combined to make recruitment much easier than it was a decade ago.

Since the abolition of conscription in the 1960s, Britain, unlike its European allies in Nato, has settled on an all-regular, highly trained, but small army, which General Sir John Stanier, Chief of the General Staff, refers to as a "crackerjack little army".

Britain's Nato allies, when considering the British Army, would probably put equal weight on Sir John's two adjectives. They admire the quality and training of the men, although they have not always equally admired their equipment, but they do occasionally allow themselves to wonder whether quality can wholly offset the lack of numbers.

The Regular Army is, of course, buttressed by the Territorial Army which the Government wants to expand to a strength of 86,000 by the end of the decade. The TA is much more than a reserve force; it is an integral part of the army's main

order of battle, a point that will be emphasized by the prominence of its role in Exercise Lionheart.

But even after taking note of the Territorials and the tiny Home Service Force, the fact remains that the regular Army is small. In the last analysis this is how the Army prefers things. It would in principle like to be bigger, but if resources are limited as they are, the Army has preferred to remain small but of high quality, rather than sacrifice quality to quantity.

Its smallness gives rise, however, to problems. Its full strength totals just over 160,000, which is only a fifth the size of the US Army, half the size of the large conscript armies of France and West Germany, and two-thirds the size of those of Italy and Spain.

This lack of size, when allied to the fact that the main bodies of forces are divided between the United Kingdom and West Germany, can mean that even a relatively small unexpected

additional commitment can leave the army feeling over-stretched.

One might have expected the position to have been eased over the last decade by the fact that the number of soldiers (other than the Ulster Defence Regiment) in Northern Ireland has declined from a peak of 22,000 in 1972 to about 9,300 today. However, in the same period the size of the Army overall has diminished even more - a reduction of about 17,000.

So a commitment like that in the Falkland Islands, where there may be around 3,000 troops stationed, when allied to the long travelling times and the periods of leave and training before and after a deployment, can leave the Army feeling a bit strained.

Pressures of this sort are reflected in the current attempt to shift about 4,000 men out of support functions and into fighting units. This may seem a small adjustment, affecting only about 2½ per cent of the total strength of the Army, but it is clear that senior officers see it as a

difficult exercise entailing delicate adjustments to what they consider an already finely balanced structure.

Such adjustments at the lower levels of the Army are paralleled both by the Army's own attempts to streamline its higher command and by the reorganization of the central defence staffs which has been imposed by Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary. This involves, among other painful changes, depriving the Army of the key post of Vice Chief of the General Staff, with equivalent losses in the other services.

There has been apprehension that this reorganization will lead to an erosion of the status and ability to offer independent advice of the CGS and his opposite numbers. The whole trend of events, with the strengthening of the role of the Chief of Defence Staff, and the policy of devolving as many functions as possible from the Ministry of defence to individual headquarters, seems to point in this direction.

However, it may be a few years before the outcome is clear. The present Chief of the Defence Staff, Field Marshal Sir Edwin Bramall, who still has over a year of his term of office to run, seems determined to maintain the position of the single service chiefs. He clearly sees the Chiefs of Staff Committee as the vehicle for achieving this, and he is unlikely to change his practice of calling meetings of the committee roughly every week, and sometimes more often.

If, as is expected, he is succeeded late next year by Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse, the present First Sea Lord, it would be surprising if he also did not seek to maintain the status of the single service Chiefs, for he has been aligned squarely with Sir John Stanier and Air Chief Marshal Sir Keith Williamson, Chief of the Air Staff, in this summer's controversy over the position of the chiefs.

Rodney Cowton

Defence Correspondent

## The ring of confidence around BAOR

The British Army of the Rhine, whose initials BAOR are among the most familiar in post-war Britain, is undergoing a process of change. It always is, but this time it could just be for the right reasons.

A 1,000 increase in strength, a restructuring of its order of battle (Orbat) and a range of new equipment, from tanks to telephones, have imbued the 1st British Corps it is said, with fresh sense of purpose. This year's Lionheart exercise which, will test some of these changes on an unprecedented scale, should indicate whether the new spirit of confidence in West Germany is justified.

BAOR was carved out of the British occupying forces in 1946, confirming the country's neutral commitment to the stationing of a peacetime garrison on the continent. Since then it has established itself as the single most important section of the postwar Army, absorbing about one-third of its fighting strength, costing more than £2,000m a year to sustain and setting new standards in weapon procurement.

After being seen for some years as a kind of showpiece for the small but highly professional British Army, BAOR hit a bad patch in the 1970s. The block obsolescence of much of its equipment coincided with economic difficulties at home and alarm overseas over what was viewed as a growing disparity between the forces of East and West.

Pressure to cut costs led to manpower reductions which led to problems of overstretch, which led to structural changes which led back to more frustration and failure.

The most fundamental change in the early 1980s has been in the divisional structure. In the middle to late 1970s the General Staff reshaped the 1st British Corps from a force of three big divisions with four brigades each into one with four smaller divisions, each of which had only two brigades or "field forces" - a briefly fashionable term. The idea was to ease manpower problems by cutting down the number of brigade headquarters.

But a number of exercises, culminating in Crusader, the 1980 forerunner of Lionheart, cruelly exposed the lack of depth and flexibility in the new divisions and also the lack of command and control without adequate staffing levels beneath that of divisional headquarters. So the Army has now returned to the concept of three medium-sized divisions of 12,500 men, grouped into three brigades each, while a fourth (confusingly this is in fact the 2nd Division) has redeployed in Britain with orders to battle back across the Channel at the first sign of serious trouble.

This sounds like another of those famous British compromises, especially as one of the 3rd Division's three brigades has also been re-located in Britain with a similar return ticket in the event of war breaking out - or looking likely.

For BAOR to have to rely upon the rapid return of one and one-third of its divisions before it is ready to start defending its 40-mile front in

Western Europe, sounds less than satisfactory. There are enough doubts already about Nato's preparedness to make the right political decisions in time.

### A formidable problem of reinforcement

The 1st British Corps already has a formidable reinforcement task. The corps would more than double in size on the outbreak of war, through the return of reserve units and individuals from Britain.

But these would be pouring in by sea and air, just as refugees and service families are pouring out - creating a horrendous traffic jam which a democracy might find hard to shift. Now the Army would seem intent upon making things worse not better, by adding 2nd Division and one brigade of 3rd Division to the melee.

On the other hand, it is not as if the number of troops in

BAOR has been reduced, quite the contrary. The number of troops has been raised from 55,000 to 56,000 to help commanders cope with the introduction of new equipment. Nor is there any real alternative for BAOR relying on rapid reinforcement of its strength.

Nearly 40 years after VE-Day, future arguments are more likely to revolve around whether Britain has too many soldiers kept at considerable expense on the continent, not whether it has too few. New equipment in the pipeline includes the Challenger tank, the tracked version of the Rapier anti-aircraft missile system and the Saxon mechanised infantry combat vehicle - an uprated armoured personnel carrier - not to mention the long-awaited Patarmigan battle-field telephone system.

It seems ironic that at a time when there is so much talk of new technology replacing personnel on the battlefield, there should be more pressure not less, upon manpower. But new

technology is expensive and experimental, and moreover there is a new philosophical move towards conventional defence as opposed to nuclear. The result is that armies could for a time become more labour-intensive than before.

New equipment is usually good for military morale - although this in itself can hardly be said to justify a weapon programme. Challenger with its Chobham armour is arriving as a replacement for some but not all the lumbering Chieftains, almost by accident - resulting from the fall of the Shah of Iran who was the original customer.

But it is a very welcome development for the Royal Armoured Corps and the introduction of a system of half-tracked replacement (as already practised by the much larger American and West German armies) might ease procurement budgets in future.

### The chances of survival on the battlefield

But British Forces Germany have been most encouraged by the recent Nato study which credited the Warsaw Pact with less overwhelming superiority over the West than was previously thought to be the case. This together with a slightly less chilling report on war stocks, following several years of careful husbandry by ordnance staffs, has helped to make the 1st British Corps chances of survival on the battlefield look more realistic.

This is not to say that BAOR could hold out for ever against a determined Soviet conventional attack along its sector. But it might just give the Americans the breathing space they need to bring their own reinforcements across the Atlantic.

Still more important it might just make the Russians believe that this is the case. BAOR in consequence, is starting once more to raise its sights, not lower them.

Henry Stanhope



Another successful firing of the Tracked Rapier in the Hebrides

## Ready to face any threat

Though the public focus of attention in Exercise Lionheart will be on activities in West Germany, it is at least as important as a test of the effectiveness of the Army's organization in the United Kingdom as of the Army in Germany.

The UK Land Forces form the largest part of the army, and come under the command of General Sir Frank Kitson, Commander-in-Chief, UKLF, whose headquarters are at Wilton, near Salisbury.

One of the primary tasks of his headquarters is to prepare the machinery and the men so that in a period of high tension, possibly leading up to war, Britain would be able within a few days to double the size of the British Army of the Rhine by sending formations of trained men with all the equipment which was not already pre-stocked in Germany.

It is this above all that is being tested in the first phases of Exercise Lionheart, and particularly over the weekend of September 15 and 16 when about 30,000 members of the Territorial Army will cross to Germany.

UKLF consists of half the Regular Army, or about 80,000 soldiers, plus 71,000 members of the Territorial Army, and has about 44,000 civilian employees. The Wilton headquarters are also responsible for cadets and reservists.

The regular forces in Northern Ireland do not, however, come under the command of UKLF. There the line of command is from the General Officer Commanding direct to the Ministry of Defence.

If Michael Heseltine, the Secretary of State for Defence, can push through his administrative reforms, it is likely that the role of Headquarters UKLF along with that of other armed headquarters in the three armed services, will be strengthened over the next year or two. It is part of Mr Heseltine's philosophy not merely to push through the highest levels of the Ministry of Defence, but to devolve as many functions as possible

from the Ministry to the various headquarters.

Evidence of this trend is already reflected in the fact that a year ago the Army's individual training organization, ranging from the Staff College at Camberley and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst to corps and regimental depots, were brought under the command of UKLF.

The central role of UKLF is to prepare the British Army in the UK to be ready to react in the event of a threat to the security of Nato and the UK. This breaks down into several component roles. Sir Frank Kitson has described these as operational planning, preparational and administrative.

The operational planning involves planning for the defence of the UK, preparing arrangements for the reinforcement of the army in Germany, for the call-up of the Territorials

and Reservists, and making arrangements to handle the large numbers of US personnel and equipment who would pass through Britain in the event of a European crisis.

Sir Frank has described this as the most complicated of his headquarters' functions, but it is the "preparational" work which he considers the most important. In this area he draws a distinction between the logistic installations and training organizations in the UK on the one hand, and the UK Field Army on the other.

The Field Army has a strength of about 100,000, roughly two-thirds of whom are Territorials, and 60,000 of whom would go to reinforce the British Army of the Rhine in war. About 35,000 are earmarked for the defence of Britain and there are various other smaller forces.

Apart from these Nato and home defence roles, it is primarily UKLF which would

normally provide the units for responding to any need for deployment outside the Nato area. Thus, 5 Airborne Brigade comes under UKLF, and its primary role is as the Commander-in-Chief's reserve, but it is also earmarked as the Army's main get-up-and-go force for operations outside the Nato area.

The fact that the Territorial Army accounts for about two-thirds of the UK Field Army is a strong indication of just how important these part-timers are in the overall order of battle.

Though the TA is now much smaller than in the 1960s when it had a strength of well over 100,000, its importance has if anything increased. This derives from the fact that whereas in the 1960s it operated on the basis that it would always have a period of weeks in which to bring itself up to fighting pitch if a war threatened, now it is an integral part of the immediate order of battle, with carefully determined roles. Substantial parts of it would expect to be deployed in operational roles in Germany within 48 hours of a mobilization.

RC

## Making the lion roar

Exercise Lionheart divides into three components:

● Exercise Full Flow.

This began on Monday and runs until September 20. This is the major mobilization exercise in which 57,000 service personnel, including 35,000 members of the Territorial Army and 4,500 reservists are being carried to war positions on the continent.

● Exercise Spearpoint.

This is a major field-training exercise, which runs from September 15 to 28, and will basically take place in an area bounded by Hanover in the North, and Gutersloh in the South-west and will extend east to a line discreetly short of the Inner German Border.

● Exercise Cold Fire.

Concurrently with Lionheart, other Nato countries will be holding their own national exercises, all rejoicing in names which catch the imagination, and sometimes confuse it as well. For example, the Belgians have Roaring Lion, the Germans Speedy Hedgehog, the

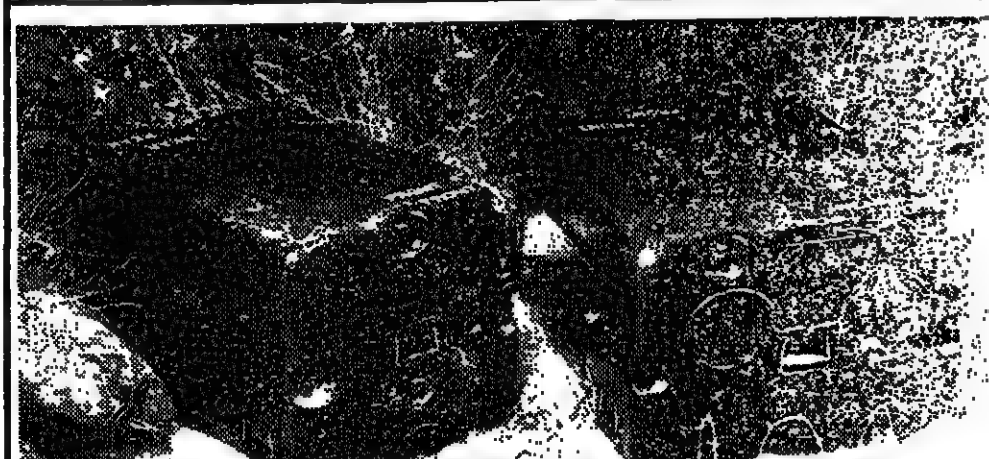
Americans Certain Fury. For all these, under the title Cold Fire, the air forces of Nato's central front, with a prominent role for the Royal Air Force, will be complementing the ground action with air activity. More than 4,000 sorties are expected to be flown between next Wednesday and September 28.

The low flying, the volume of military traffic trundling along the roads and the pyrotechnics seem certain to be a bit of a trial for West Germany's civilian population. The scale of the potential disturbance is perhaps reflected in the fact that £3m, about 25 per cent of the British budget for Lionheart, has been set aside for compensation for damage to civilian property.

One of the major purposes of Lionheart will be to see to what extent problems revealed in 1980 in Exercise Crusader have been eliminated. Crusader was broadly similar to Lionheart, although only about 100,000 troops were involved.

Among the lessons of Crusader, an important one was the demonstration that the structure of British divisions in West Germany was not satisfactory, and this has since led to a major reorganization of them on the basis of three brigades to a division.

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# Progress all the way in arms and firepower

General Sir John

Stanier, Chief of the

General Staff, talks

to Rodney Cowton,

The Times Defence

Correspondent

Q Sir John, the Army is in the middle of a major re-equipment programme. How would you assess its significance?

A Sir John Stanier: I don't think anybody would doubt that until the end of the 1970s the Army's equipment programme was in pretty much disarray and we had fallen a long way behind what was needed to keep abreast of the threat with which we were faced. I am, therefore, delighted to say that now, in the 1980s, the equipment programme has really taken off in a big way.

Improvements to our equipment to come about during this decade are the biggest re-equipment of the British Army since the Second World War.

Now there are some areas where we have made enormous strides and some where we have made smaller steps, and there are some obviously where there is a great deal to be done.

Perhaps I could start with the good news, and I think the really good news is to be found in terms of the anti-armour battle, in the enhancement of artillery and in the mechanization of logistics support.

To start with anti-armour operations, we have now in service the Challenger, which is going to make its debut really in Exercise Lionheart with the Royal Hussars, which is a vastly better tank than we have had for years and years.

We have got just round the corner the LAW-80 which is an enormously improved infantry anti-tank weapon. We have got TOW on Lynx helicopters, which is now in service and is a superb weapon against tanks, fired from the helicopter, and in due course we shall be upgrading the old Chieftain with a high pressure gun which will also be put into Challenger as well. We have a new and far more effective round in our 120mm guns so that all in all the anti-armour package is very promising indeed.

To turn to artillery, which has been rather neglected in the past, we have SP-70 coming into service, which is a self-propelled mode of the FV-70 which is a towed gun and which is a joint venture with our allies. Also just round the corner, though slightly further round than I would wish, because it has slipped a bit, is the multi-barrelled rocket launcher which is going to make a huge difference to our artillery capability at long range, and give enormous additional weight to our firepower.

I should add to that BATES, which is an electronic automatic data processing system, which will co-ordinate the fire of the whole Corps artillery with enormous improvements carried with it. I might say in passing that BATES will be operating in conjunction with Wavell and Plamigan which are huge improvements in our communications capabilities.

But leaving that aside, I should like to say a word about logistics, because when you have all these new equipments coming into service they do tend to eat up huge quantities of ammunition, and ammunition is very heavy to move. Looking back to the era of the 1970s and 1960s the outloading of ammunition was simply a matter of men humping great boxes of stuff, and it makes absolutely no sense to improve your weapons systems without improving the logistics support.

One thing which is going to make a huge difference is the system called DROPS. It is a truck which can pick up a great packet of pallets without any man having to move the stuff, take them and dump the pallets wherever they are needed, and the pallets can then be picked up by fork-lift truck and carried right forward to the guns, or wherever. It is a huge step forward and of course it reduces manpower and improves the



General Sir John Stanier with the Challenger - 'the best tank we have had for years and years ...'

amount of stuff you can get forward quickly.

So those are the areas where I think we are making big progress. Of the areas which have quite a lot left to be done, the biggest is air defence. Of course, we have taken a number of steps on air defence, in the first instance self-propelled, tracked Rapier is coming into service, an enormous improvement there. Rapier itself is constantly being improved and our Falklands experience of it has done a lot to help us to improve it even further.

We are also introducing Javelin which is the shoulder-fired anti-air weapon system and that is fine, but still I judge that we have a big lack in air defence capability. I could wish for an air defence gun but at the moment we can't afford it, although we are investigating the prospect of a high velocity missile system which may take the place of a gun, but air

defence is I think perhaps our biggest lack, although of course we do look to the Royal Air Force to help us very considerably. At the end of the day they are going to be the critical people in helping to fight the air battle over the Corps area.

Q Do you feel that the re-organization of the central defence staffs which takes effect at the beginning of next year and which has not been welcomed by the services will affect the ability of the Army to operate fully effectively?

A Sir John: The answer is that the Army will continue to operate absolutely fully effectively. I should not think that anybody in the Army below the rank of, and perhaps including the rank of, major-general will notice any difference at all. And I hope they will not because one of the parts of the re-organization lays down specifically that I am responsible for the total morale

and effectiveness of the Army, so if the Army does notice anything different, it will be my fault, so the answer is "I hope they won't."

But you said the re-organization was not welcomed by the services. I should like to say that that is nothing whatever to do with the management and running of the armed forces out in the field. The concerns about the re-organization stem entirely from the relationship of those giving advice on military matters here with the government of the day.

It is nothing to do with the effective management or running of the armed forces which will be totally unchanged.

Q Britain has a small, regular army backed up by the Territorial Army. Is this the best approach?

A Sir John: We have a very strong, professional but small, regular army. The TA is being enhanced, and the enthusiasm and keenness and determination of the TA is something which really lifts the heart, and think on Lionheart that is the thing that will come across more than anything else. Super people. They give up their own precious time to do it and we are enormously grateful to them for what they do. Without them we simply would not start.

If you are a professional soldier it's very attractive indeed to have a small professional regular army because you can hone the edge of it until you have a really crackjack little army. But you have to acknowledge one big limitation which we suffer, which those, with conscript armies do not.

If you look across the whole population of this country the number of men who have undergone any form of military training is a very small percentage indeed, whereas if we had had a conscript army since 1945 we would have a fair chunk of Britain's male population who had all had some measure of military training. So that if the day ever came again when we had to raise a big citizens' army we would find that the majority of the population of this country was totally untrained.

That is the disadvantage, the big disadvantage of the way we do it at the moment. But if you ask me which I prefer, I would always go for the small highly professional, regular army which we hope would be an adequate core for any expansion that we had to undertake.

The pattern is not immutable. Hong Kong reverts to Chinese rule in 1997, a prospect which poses some interesting questions over not just the British presence there but the future of the Gurkha element within the British Army. Three of the five Gurkha battalions are stationed more or less permanently in Hong Kong and it is hard to envisage their redeployment in West Germany or Northern Ireland post-1997.

The future of the Falklands garrison must be in doubt, despite the Government's repeated assurances on sovereignty - and similar uncertainty surrounds Gibraltar. As for Belize, Whitehall makes little secret of its "ever-ready" which withdraws the British force as soon as a lasting agreement can be signed with neighbouring Guatemala, or if and when Belize looks strong enough to look after its own.

Similar movement can be expected from time to time among the training teams and other LSP. The largest contingents of these are in Oman, Kuwait and Zimbabwe - where about 60 British troops are still trying to impose the disciplines of Sandhurst and Pirbright upon the former guerrilla fighters of Mr Robert Mugabe. Foreign governments change and allegiances change with them - as in Iran or, rather less dramatically, Zimbabwe.

Nationally, the provision of military personnel is an important component of foreign policy. Some of the benefits are positive in that the link between the government and the opportunity of improving trade relationships. But the negative effect of ensuring that the country concerned remains in the Western sphere of influence and does not need to seek assistance from the Eastern bloc is if anything still more crucial. A small training establishment in the darkest Africa can be worth literally more than its weight in gold, in the curious currency of power politics.

The Commonwealth, as the successor to the Empire, has placed Britain in a unique position to perform such a service as a flag-carrier for the Western alliance. Only France for similar post-imperial reasons and the United States, on

account of its wealth and superpower status, can exert comparable influence in the Third World.

These residual responsibilities of Empire restrict Britain's ability to become involved elsewhere. Successive governments have argued, with some justice, that the country already makes a substantial contribution to Nato's out-of-area interests and can not be expected to do much more. The effects have not always been impressive. British connections, although less significant than those with the United States, failed to save the Shah of Iran as a Western friend in the Gulf. Nor did the British presence do much for Cyprus in 1974.

On the other hand, Belize remains an oasis of stability in Central America while Britain can take considerable credit for the defeat of communist-backed rebels in Southern Oman in the

10 years between 1965 and 1975.

The Special Air Service deserve special mention too for providing a pool of expertise upon which friendly nations have drawn in the past, in their fight against international terrorism. The SAS were at one time prominent in Oman in helping to train loyalist guerrillas in the Dhofar region.

Although the Government has had to resist calls for a Rapid Deployment Force on the lines of that created by the United States, the Falklands crises demonstrated the advantage of having a kind of task force of "ever-readies" which could be dispatched to trouble-spots in a hurry.

A study was started after the war in the South Atlantic with the result that Mr Michael Heseltine, the Defence Secretary, announced last year that the 5th Infantry Brigade at Aldershot was henceforth to be known as 5th Airborne Brigade and would be tasked with this out-of-area role.

The brigade's primary job remains that of the mobile reserve for the commander-in-chief of the United Kingdom Land Forces. But two of the three battalions are in-role units of the Parachute Regiment, while the addition of an armoured reconnaissance regiment, a helicopter support squadron, a Blowpipe air-defence troop, signals and ordnance personnel and a field ambulance have given it the look of an all-purpose, light fighting unit.

The brigade's ability for foreign intervention will remain limited. But it could have an important role in the evacuation of British civilians from some distant land or the protection of some installations which are important to Western interests and could equally combine usefully with some other larger force, British or perhaps American, to exert a stabilizing influence over a crisis of even bigger proportions. It sounds like a British compromise which could just work.

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## The heavyweight at the heart of the 'battle'

One of the striking features of this month's Exercise Lionheart is that it will involve three of the world's latest and most potent tanks: the West German Leopard 2, the American M-1 Abrams and the British Challenger.

Leopard-2 and the Abrams have been entering service in increasing numbers during the past few years, but for Challenger the process has only just begun, with just one regiment, the Royal Hussars, so far equipped with them.

On present plans the army will ultimately have five regiments, totalling about 300 tanks, equipped with Challenger, a figure which has to be set against the German plans for

1,800 Leopard-2s and the US Army's ambition to have more than 7,000 Abrams by the mid-1990s. America's planned production rate of 60 a month compares with the present rate of Challenger production by the Royal Ordnance Factory at Leeds of seven a month.

Challenger is the heavyweight of the trio, at 60 tons about five tons heavier than either Leopard-2 or the Abrams. It is significantly slower on roads than the US and German tanks, although some British officers contend that its exceptional suspension will enable Challenger to travel at least as fast across rough country as the other two.

Challenger is in direct line of descent from the Chieftain,

which has been in service since the 1960s, and which has been, and continues to be, steadily upgraded to extend its capabilities and useful life. Though Challenger's legitimacy is not, therefore, in doubt, it joined the army's family of tracked vehicles by a circuitous route.

The army had hoped the successor to Chieftain would come in the form of a completely new tank developed in conjunction with West Germany, but in the event the two countries could not establish enough common ground in their requirements.

While Britain and Germany were still exploring the possibility of collaboration, the Shah of Iran agreed on a contract to buy 1,300 tanks developed from the Chieftain. This contract collapsed in 1979 when the Shah's regime was overthrown, but the tanks which had been destined for Iran provided the basis from which Challenger has emerged.

It is often referred to as an "interim" successor to Chieftain, and already studies have begun on a possible new tank for the later 1990s. The indications are that this would probably emerge as a substantially lighter vehicle than Challenger, and there will almost certainly be renewed efforts to find a basis for cooperation with other countries.

Even if only an "interim" tank, Challenger incorporates several improvements on Chieftain. It is the first British tank to



The MCV-80: the vehicle that will keep the troops up with the tanks

carry the British-developed Chobham armour protection, which is considered the most advanced in the world, and which is also being used by the Americans and Germans.

It is faster than Chieftain both on roads, and, above all, across country. It is said that Challenger can reverse faster across country than Chieftain can go forward. This should not be dismissed as an entirely eccentric capability, for the ability to manoeuvre backwards at speed is important as tanks seek to make rapid changes in their firing positions.

The hydrogas suspension on which much of its cross-country speed depends is remarkable for

the smoothness of the ride, even in rutted, scarred terrain.

One of the drawbacks of Challenger is that it is at least 50 per cent heavier on fuel than Chieftain. Though Challenger has only this summer entered service with the British Army of the Rhine, already a programme of improvements for both it and Chieftain is in train.

Among those planned are the fitting of a new high-pressure gun and fire-control systems, modifications to Challenger's gear-box, and the introduction of a new thermal observation and gunnery sight. It is also hoped that developments in the design of tank tracks will lead to a doubling of their life to well over 2,000 kilometres.

With modern tanks able to travel at 35 miles an hour or faster, it is important that infantry should be able to keep pace in vehicles which provide a high degree of armoured protection. The vehicle which the British army will be expecting to provide cross-country support for the tanks is the mechanized combat vehicle, MCV-80, which is being produced by GKN Sankey.

This 24-tonne vehicle, which is capable of 45 mph, will enter service later this decade. Protected by lightweight aluminium-alloy armour, it will carry 10 infantrymen and their equipment into battle.

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## Why the girls queue four-deep to join up

for recruiting, with a massive surge in the total number of recruits from about 13,000 in 1982/83 to more than 22,000 in 1983/84.

This surge was very much the result of an easing of the severe restraints of previous years, largely in recognition of the extra demands made on the army through the commitment to garrisoning the Falkland Islands.

Though the Army shows some satisfaction at being able to meet its overall recruitment targets, surges such as last year's are in principle undesirable. The Army projects its manpower requirements 10 years ahead, and these are then subject to modification in the light of political, economic and other developments.

Large short-term variations in either the rate of recruiting or in the numbers of people leaving

the service not only make it more difficult to ensure a properly balanced army with the right mix of skills, but make it very difficult to pitch the provision of training resources at the most efficient level.

Short term variations can cast a long shadow. For example, in the late 1970's, when service pay fell behind civilian levels, the services were neither able to recruit sufficient people nor to retain enough of those they had. Those years are now referred to as "the black hole", and because of the rate at which very young officers were then leaving the Army, it is to this day short by about 15 per cent of the required number of people at the rank of captain.

The number of people leaving the service early is again increasing. On 1982/83 about 1,500 soldiers sought "premature voluntary release", or FVR

as it is known, and in the current financial year it looks as though this number may rise to approaching 3,000. The number of officers seeking FVR is also rising, but more slowly, from under 450 in 1982/83 towards 600 this year.

These numbers must, however, be seen in perspective. They compare with more than 5,700 non-commissioned ranks and 830 officers who sought premature release in the black-hole year of 1978/79.

One of the buoyant areas of army recruiting at present lies in the number of girls wanting to join. One officer said: "There are very high-grade girls queuing four deep to join."

This could be important because though women account for only about 6,400 of the total strength of the army, there are important voices which say that more use should be made of women in tasks away from the front line, in order to release more men for service in and close to the combat formations. It seems likely, therefore, that there may be some modest increase in the number of women in the Army in the next year or two.

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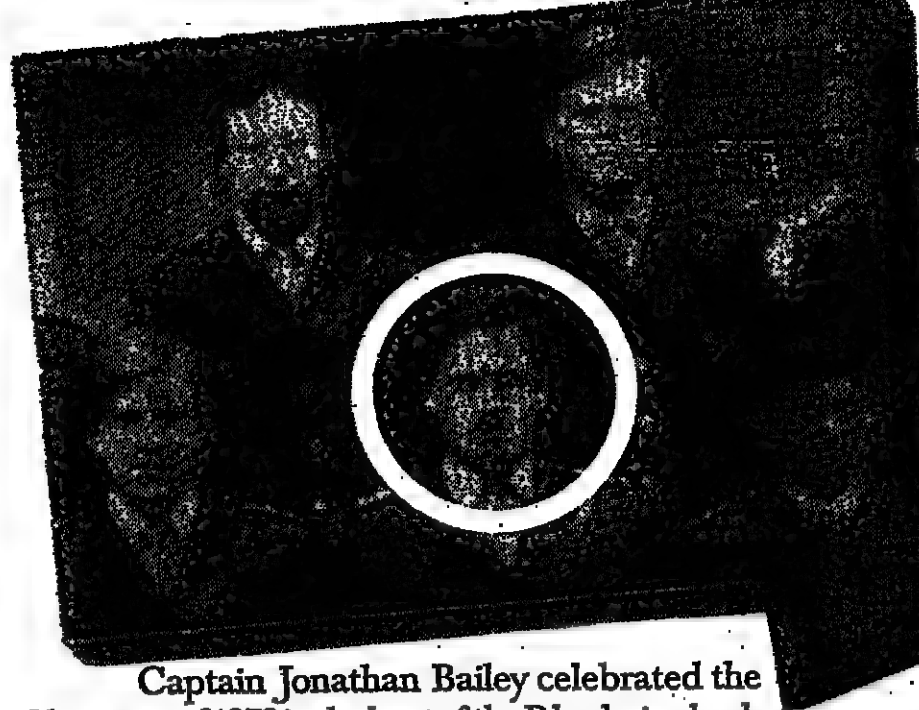
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# "They told me I had 48 hours to live."



forge any links with the Army during his time at Sussex, preferring to read for a degree under his own steam.

Sandhurst, in consequence, came as something of a shock to his system.

"I was used to a couple of lectures a day, starting at ten in the morning.

Hardly a grounding for the dawn to dusk bombardment of Sandhurst.

In the end, I got my head down and concentrated on survival."

ever-changing weapons during this time, Bailey recalls the problems of leadership as being the most demanding.

"From day one you are responsible for the fitness, training and, ultimately, the safety of your men.

You can also find yourself doubling as a welfare officer and a marriage guidance counsellor."

Promoted to the rank of Captain, he spent the next two years back in the classroom.

First as an instructor in surveillance and intelligence techniques. Then as a student of infantry tactics and staff duties.

As Bailey points out, you rarely get bored with a job in the Army. They don't give you the time.

## War in the Falklands.

When he returned from Zimbabwe, Jonathan Bailey took up the post of Adjutant in 4 Field Regiment Royal Artillery.

In April 1982, he was deployed with the Regiment to the South Atlantic, with the rank of Major.

Given 18 hours notice, he took command of the troops on the Baltic Ferry, being responsible during the voyage for morale, discipline and battle readiness.

On arrival in the Falklands, he was to co-ordinate the fire support cell for 5 Infantry Brigade.

In plain English, to organise the shelling of Argentine positions prior to precisely timed infantry advances.

The problem for Bailey was that the shelling involved not just the Royal Artillery, but also the Royal Navy and RAF Harriers.

"We had to sit down and thrash out a co-ordinated fire plan under extremely difficult circumstances.

The movement of ships and the availability of Harriers and supply helicopters all had to be taken into account.

Then there was the weather..."

Of course, the Royal Artillery had their own problems, too. "Years of training stand you in good stead for operations like the Falklands. But even so, the sheer scale of the action caused us a few headaches.

In the last twelve hours of the battle for Port Stanley, five batteries fired the equivalent of one regiment's training ammunition for four years.

After firing three hundred rounds, it took a detachment three hours just to move the empty salvage back thirty metres behind their gun."

Looking back, Major Bailey regards his early years in the Royal Artillery, when everything was new, as the most demanding of his career.

But he recalls Zimbabwe and the Falklands as the most rewarding chapters to date.

"What appeals to me about the Army is that the unexpected always seems to happen, just when you think life is becoming routine.

Any Officer can suddenly find himself on active service with the chance to influence events, to stamp his mark. What other career could offer as much?"

If you would like to know more about life as an Army Officer, write to Major John Floyd, Army Officer Entry, Dept. T14 Empress State Building, Lillie Road, London SW6 1TR. Tell him your date of birth, your school, university, polytechnic or college of higher education and the qualifications you already have or are expecting.

**Army Officer**



A Kalashnikov used by the Guerrillas.

The Note.

The self-propelled MT10 gun, deployed in Germany.

Captain Jonathan Bailey celebrated the Christmas of 1979 in the heat of the Rhodesian bush.

He was in command of a Ceasefire Assembly Place, 300 miles from Salisbury and 5,000 miles from home.

His orders were brief and to the point.

To muster guerrillas from the bush and persuade them to remain at the Assembly Place until the Zimbabwe elections could take place in March, 1980.

Understandably, the guerrillas were highly suspicious and Bailey's first task was to gain their confidence.

Overt displays of force and weaponry were out of the question.

"The local Police, who acted as our guides, viewed us with total disbelief," he recalls.

"They had seen civil war raging in the bush for the previous eight years.

Now they were confronted by a British Army Officer and 11 men who were to enforce a ceasefire, armed only with rifles and good will.

They left with the comforting prediction that we'd probably be dead inside 48 hours."

The next day a note arrived (reprinted right) inviting Bailey to meet the guerrillas further out in the bush.

He weighed up the pros and cons and politely declined.

"I thought they were sparring with us," he says. "When we stood our ground, they had to come to us."

Five hours later the first group arrived, followed by another and another. At the end of the first week, Bailey and his men had charge of 800 guerrillas.

Then the logistical problems began.

To provide fresh water for 800 in the back of beyond, Bailey requested assistance from the Royal Engineers.

Two five thousand gallon water tanks were constructed, together with a pipeline that stretched two kilometres to the local Umfuli river.

A detachment from the Royal Army Medical Corps was also flown in. And a regular air drop of food and medicines by RAF Hercules was organised.

"On top of all this, we had to concentrate on building a relationship of trust with the guerrillas," records Bailey.

"We organised as many activities as we could think of—football, volleyball, fitness training.

I even gave a lecture on the Reformation of the Church. They seemed very interested in religion."

Even so, the ensuing months were not without their tension.

The guerrillas retained possession of their weapons throughout and guns were occasionally fired by accident.

Typically, this caused them all to prime their weapons, often firing in the air.

In March, the elections took place successfully. But Bailey is quick to deflect any praise that comes his way.

"We were sitting ducks from the word go. The fact that we survived is due entirely to the peaceful intentions of the guerrillas.

Their leader set the seal on events when he visited the Assembly Place. He told his men to vote as they pleased and to accept the outcome, whatever it might be."

## A career in the Gunners.

Jonathan Bailey applied to join the Royal Artillery after spending three years at Sussex University. (He gained an upper second in medieval history.) He had decided not to

Survive he did, passing out as an Officer in 1973. He chose to join the Royal Artillery, primarily because of the variety of activities offered by that Regiment.

In his first four years he was a Command Post Officer, a Gun Position Officer and a Troop Commander.

He spent time in Cyprus, Northern Ireland and Germany.

Despite the need to get to grips with advanced and



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58	East End Press 'FM'	110		10	10.0	18.2
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58	East End Press 'FP'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'FQ'	110		10	10.0	18.2
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58	East End Press 'GF'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'GG'	110		10	10.0	18.2
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58	East End Press 'GI'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'GJ'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'GK'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'GL'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'GM'	110		10	10.0	18.2
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58	East End Press 'GZ'	110		10	10.0	18.2
58	East End Press 'HA'	110				

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390	Grayson City	162	0	+2	2.0	1.7	13.8
391	Greenville	162	0	0	2.0	1.7	13.8
392	Hammermill	162	0	0	2.0	1.7	13.8
393	Hammonton, W	162	0	+10	2.0	1.7	13.8
394	Hammonton, E	162	0	0	2.0	1.7	13.8
395	Harford	162	0	0	2.0	1.7	13.8
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127	Shoof Express	136				
128	Shoof Express	136	0	0.1	1.1	14.3
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190	Shoof Express	136			4.8	5.5
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a Dividend. b Ex all. c Forward dividend. d Corrected  
 e Interim payment passed. f Price at completion. g  
 and yield exclude a special payment. h Bid  
 money. i Pre-merger figures. j Forward earnings. k Ex  
 al distributions. l Ex rights. m Ex early or share paid. n  
 three. y Price admitted for late payment. No statement

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THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

# Treasury bills to cut the cost of mortgages

The Treasury is laughing. At least £500m has been channelled into the 28th issue of National Savings certificates since they were launched on their irresistible way on August 8. The mandarins, however, may soon be laughing on the other side of their faces. Paying an inflated rate of interest, at the taxpayers' expense, may be an absurdly simple way of financing the public sector deficit, but the pressure it is now putting on building societies is beginning to look unhealthy. Against such ruthless State competition for savings they have no choice but to offer high rates. The other side of that equation is high mortgage rates, which in turn are reflected in the published rate of inflation.

The latest response of the building societies is noted later. Both they, the Treasury and the Bank of England cannot fail to be interested in an intelligent and persuasive solution to the savings dilemma offered by Mr Stephen Lewis of Phillips & Drew, the newly crowned king of the gilt-edged analysts. He suggests that the authorities might spread the burden of funding by tapping more actively the cash of companies.

The bulk of companies' liquid funds still finds its way into bank deposits "probably because the public sector securities available to them do not suit their investment requirements."

Mr Lewis believes that the Government might attract a larger proportion of company money "if the range of public sector securities available to companies were broadened." The most obvious gap in the range is six-month and 12-month central government paper, ie, the kind of Treasury bills found in the United States and major Continental European countries.

For a variety of reasons the Government has been reluctant to open-up the market in short term paper. The three-month Treasury bill issue itself has withered away from £600m a week in 1976 to £100m a week now.

One of the consequences of the shrinkage of this market is the Bank of England's increasing reliance on buying commercial bills to relieve shortages of credit in the money market. Mr Lewis estimates that the Bank's holdings of commercial bills have risen by £7 billion over the past four years. "Not only does this represent the effective 'nationalization' of a significant slice of private sector debt, it also provides a stimulus to the development of the commercial bill market and distortions in the pattern and, from time to time, in the extent of overall monetary sector lending to the industrial and commercial company sector. These adverse consequences might be avoided if the Government were to issue six-month and 12-month Treasury bills on a large scale."

## Seeking a 'truth in saving' standard

Meanwhile, leaping among the building society giants continues as each tries to obtain a competitive edge in the hunt for savings. The latest to announce an increase is the Woolwich, which has put 0.55 per cent on its seven-day, 90-day and monthly income accounts, claiming that its investment rates are now better than those announced earlier by Abbey National.

The next few days should produce a response from the Halifax, Nationwide and second division Cheltenham & Gloucester, which is sitting on the sidelines waiting to see where the fig five will settle before announcing new rates on the Cheltenham Gold Account.

Building society rates now have little

relationship with money market rates and societies, worried at their ever-narrowing margins, are asking where it will all end. The upward trend in rates will have to slow down at some stage - presumably when mortgage rates are pushed up to a level where homebuyers are no longer prepared to borrow. That could be a long way off and in the meantime borrowers are paying more than is necessary.

A more disturbing trend is occupying the mind of Mr Michael Bridgman, the registrar of friendly societies. When Leeds Permanent and Abbey National announced their latest increases, the rises appeared to be larger than they actually were, because both moved from quoting the annual rate of interest to a compounded annual rate.

It has long been argued that there should be a "truth in saving" policy in line with the "truth in lending" initiative which culminated in the Consumer Credit Act requirement that all lenders should quote a borrowing rate calculated according to an agreed formula - the annual percentage rate (APR). Building Society investors may now be confused by the different rates quoted by societies which are basically offering the same return. The registrar, concerned to stop the rot, is working hard on a directive to be issued very soon which will oblige societies to quote an investment APR.

## Gnomic remarks from Matthews

The disappearance of Dr Ashraf Marwan has brought a brief outbreak of silence - not unwelcome you may think - over the manoeuvrings round Fleet Holdings as the poker players study their hands. Lord Matthews, however, could hardly avoid some comment to his other shareholders in the company's annual report. With a turn of phrase worthy of Lord Gnome, he seeks to refute rumours that Fleet will be pushed into making a big takeover for shares to make itself more expensive and dilute Mr Robert Maxwell's shareholding, now nearly 16 per cent.

"Such comment will not force us into making acquisitions that are not in the best interests of shareholders and employees," he says emphatically. "Nevertheless," he continues without pause, "the group does have the ability to grow by acquisitions into areas outside of newspapers and magazines where careful evaluation of all the relevant factors shows that it is commercially desirable. This will continue to be a prime objective for the future." Quite so.

One area unlikely to receive his attention is cable television, ruled out by Fleet as offering "no prospects of achieving a satisfactory return in the foreseeable future". Likewise, Fleet's investment in TV-am is hardly likely to encourage it to pile the £70m odd of cash and Reuters shares available in 1986 into the small screen. Films offer more possibilities.

So long as Lord Matthews, now 64, wants to keep Fleet independent of Mr Roland "Tiny" Rowland or someone else approved by the Mirror's proprietor, his best defence is to maintain Fleet's sparkling 1983-84 profits performance. Lord Matthews is about to start a new share option scheme to provide more incentives. They may be needed. With newsprint costs rising again, national newspapers will require "stringent control of costs" to make more headway. Connoisseurs of Fleet Street costs will note that, apart from directors, more than 100 Fleet employees are paid above £30,000 a year and 76 more than £35,000.

# £43m Lloyd's underwriting loss is first for 14 years

By Richard Thomson

Lloyd's of London, the international insurance market, has announced its first underwriting loss for 14 years. The £43.5m loss for 1983, on premium income of £2.3 billion, means that some Lloyd's names will have to put up cash to meet claims.

However, the underwriting losses are broadly spread across the market and, according to the Association of Lloyd's Members, very few individual names or syndicates have been badly hit.

Despite the loss, Lloyd's reported an overall market profit for the year of £154m, due to investment income. The results will mean a reduced return on investment for Lloyd's members. The 1981 profit is £2.5 per member, the previous year's profit of £264m producing a return of about 6

per cent against 7 per cent in 1980.

However, the number of Lloyd's members has increased steadily, more than doubling from 11,000 to 23,000 since 1976. Its underwriting capacity has grown over the same period from £1.9bn to £5bn.

Mr Peter Miller, chairman of Lloyd's, gave a warning that the position could worsen. The insurance industry had been through a trough in 1982 and 1983 and this would be reflected in Lloyd's results for those years, which were likely to be worse than the 1981 results.

On marine underwriting business, Mr Derek Pollock, chairman of Lloyd's Underwriting Association, reported a profit of £104m - marginally down on the previous year. On present market conditions, he said, there was evidence of an improvement in the rates



Peter Miller: warning that position could worsen.

charged on hull business, but fierce competition was still keeping marine rates low.

In other areas, the accident and health account produced a fall in profits of nearly £10m from £24.6m in 1980 to £15m in 1981. But motor insurance showed an increase in profits

from £36m to over £40m in 1981.

Mr Peter Smith, chairman of Lloyd's Motor Underwriters' Association, said that since then the profitable cycle of the last 10 years was ending and motor rates were now too low.

He forecast that rates would rise by 7.5 to 10 per cent this year.

The aviation account turned around from a loss of £9m in 1980 to a profit of £7m in 1981 as a result of higher investment income. The property damage account increased by £43m from £69m to £112m.

Mr Miller pointed out that Lloyd's overall underwriting loss should be seen in the context of bad results reported worldwide by insurance companies. Despite the loss, Lloyd's was in a strong position, he said, its underlying financial situation was extremely healthy and it was still able to attract new investment.

## Garfunkels pays £5.8m for Strikes restaurants

By Jonathan Clare

History turned full circle for the Strikes Restaurants hamburger chain yesterday when Garfunkels Restaurants revealed itself as the unexpected bidder which has been wooing the group.

The 22-strong Strikes chain was established between 1968 and 1978 by Mr Phillip Kaye who now runs Garfunkels with his brother, Mr Reggie Kaye. Mr Phillip Kaye said: "We have more or less buying back what I set up - I certainly know where the light switches are."

Garfunkels and Strikes almost came together two years ago when both were planning a flotation on the Unlisted Securities Market. A joint flotation of the merged company was considered but, Mr Kaye said, it was decided that Strikes, part of Comfort Hotels International, was too big a name to come to the USA as separate companies.

The acquisition of the 22 Strikes restaurants will take the Garfunkels chain to 30. A large proportion of the restaurants will be turned into Garfunkels' new Deep Pan Pizza format. The Strikes name will be phased out over two years.

Comfort, which until yesterday owned 86.7 per cent of the shares, is keeping the rights to the Strikes name which it has also franchised. Mr Kaye said he believed the Strikes concept had been right for the 1970s but was now jaded after peaking in 1983.

Garfunkels is paying the equivalent of £5.8m in shares for the restaurants. But Comfort will buy back the three Heroes restaurants, an Oxford Street restaurant, rights to the names Heroes and Strikes and the Strikes shareholding in Croissant de Provence for a total of £860,000. Comfort will also pay back a £1.1m loan made to it by Strikes.

Mr Kaye said that he still saw a big future for restaurants in London offering alternative meals to fast food outlets at about £5 a head. However, he also wants to expand Garfunkels in the suburbs.

"At the moment we have 47 restaurants in the West End. He is also considering introducing the British palate to a chain of American rib houses selling barbecued pork spare ribs."

## SE defends move to dual capacity

By Jeremy Warner

The Stock Exchange yesterday hit back at a scathing attack launched a week ago by Mr David Hopkinson, chairman of M & G Investment Management, on the revolutionary changes being planned for the market.

Sir Nicholas Goodison, chairman of the exchange, said that the proposed new dealing system would mean more protection for investors and that the exchange would bring in rules and codes to deal with conflicts of interest when dual capacity is introduced.

Mr Hopkinson had criticized "the dangers" of being rushed by the Government, the Bank of England and large institutions into making changes which, he said, would increase the risk of fraud or bankruptcy in the market and reduce the level of protection enjoyed by investors.

Sir Nicholas told Mr Hopkinson in a letter which he has chosen to make public, that the exchange had been given insufficient credit for having reached a firm and detailed decision on a new dealing system with its supporting technology which would afford "a very high level of protection for investors."

At the same time, Sir Nicholas has issued a warning to other parts of the City on the

dangers of not setting their own houses in order by devising adequate forms of voluntary self-regulation.

The failure of people outside the Stock Exchange to submit to an acceptable degree of voluntary regulation would inevitably lead to "the hurried imposition of wholly statutory regulation," he said. Sir Nicholas was referring particularly to the commodity and Eurobond markets where there have been several instances of alleged irregularities.

Coincidentally, Sir Nicholas announced yesterday that the Stock Exchange is strengthening its own regulatory framework by setting up a surveillance department for monitoring and enforcing its rules.

The new department will be headed by Mr Robert Wilkinson, the Stock Exchange's inspector, and will bring together under a single executive management the work of the firms' accounts department, the Stock Exchange accountants, the inspectorate, the investigation department, the share dealing inquiries, the quotations department, and non-members complaints.

A new joint venture called Tullet & Tokyo Securities is to apply for a licence to operate as a dealer-broker in the new gilt-edged market.

## Pound up 45 points on dollar

By Peter Wilson-Smith  
Banking Correspondent

Money market rates eased and the pound had a steady day on the foreign exchange markets yesterday, as he rush into dollars subsided and the US currency met some profit-taking.

By the close the pound was up 45 points against the dollar at \$1.2860. It also ended slightly firmer against other currencies. Against the Deutschmark, sterling firmed three-quarters of a penny to DM3.925. On its trade-weighted index, calculated earlier in the day, the pound still showed a fall of 0.1 to 77.0 compared with its overnight level.

Dealers said there was still nervousness about the pound, but the latest developments in the coal strike had helped it.

Preliminary figures released yesterday by the Central Statistical Office confirm that the miners' strike has contributed to a worsening in Britain's balance of payments with the rest of the world.

The swing from a £472m surplus in the first quarter to an estimated £283m current account deficit in the second quarter was largely due to a £767m fall in the surplus earned on oil, as oil imports rose by about 40 per cent.

## Booker hits forecast

Booker McConnell, the agricultural, health and food group, has reported pre-tax profits of £11.1m for the half-year to June 30 up from £5.6m. A bid for the group by the Dea Corporation is being considered by the Monopolies Commission. The figures reinforce the forecasts made by Booker at the time of the bid. The interim dividend is raised from 1.65p to 2.75p putting it on course to meet the promised 7p payout for the year.

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## STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1085.3 up 12.7 (high: 1085.3; low: 1085.0)  
FT Index: 848.9 up 9.0  
FT Gilt: 79.01 up 0.12  
FT All Share: 516.67 up 4.33  
Bargains: 16,358  
Distress: 454 Leaders  
Index: 101.77 down 4.33  
New York: Dow Jones Average: 1,214.88 up 5.85  
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10,458.99 down 87.06  
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index: 935.93 down 10.94  
Amsterdam: 165 down 0.2  
Sydney: AO Index 721.0 down 0.9  
Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index: 994.2 down 6.6

## CURRENCIES

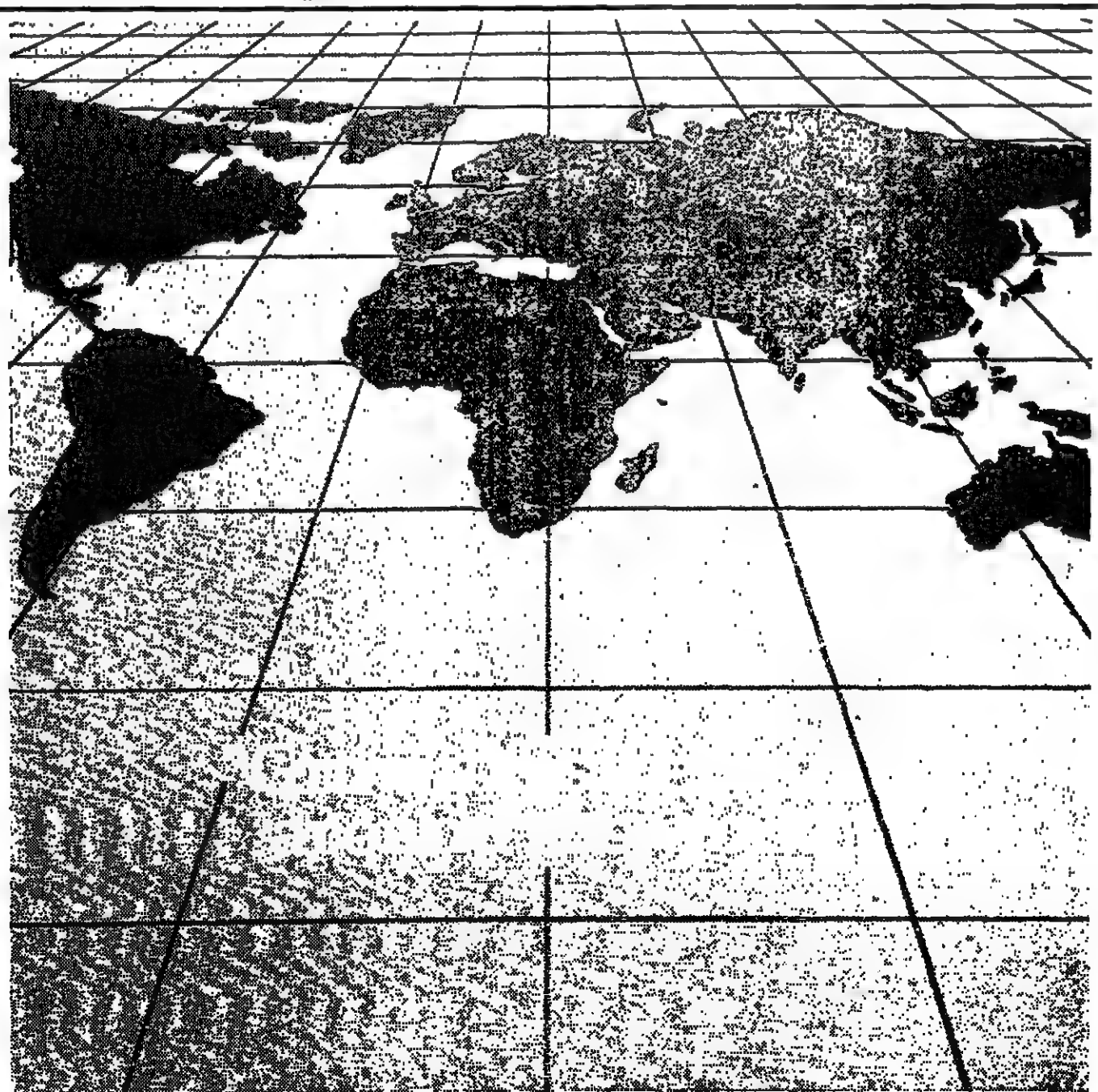
LONDON CLOSE  
Sterling \$1.2860 up 45pts  
Index: 77.6 down 0.1  
DM 3.925 up 0.0075  
FF 111.63 up 0.0275  
Yen 313.75 up 0.45  
Dollar Index 138.7 up 0.1  
DM 2.9475 down 0.0075  
NEW YORK LATEST  
Sterling \$1.2860  
Dollar DM 2.9460

## INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:  
Bank base rates 10%  
Finance houses base rate 11%  
Discount market loans week fixed 10  
3 month interbank 11-10%  
Euro-currency rates:  
3 month dollar 12 1/4-11 1/4  
3 month DM 5 1/2-5 1/4  
3 month FF 12 1/2-11 1/2  
US rates:  
Bank prime rate 13.00  
Fed funds 11 1/4  
Treasury long bond 19 1/2-19 1/4  
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period August 8 to September 4, 1984, inclusive: 10.606 per cent.

## GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):  
am \$340.30 pm \$340.50  
close \$340.50-341 (\$265-265.50)  
New York (interim) \$341.50  
Kruggerand (per coin):  
\$350.75-352.25 (\$273-274)  
Sovereigns (new):  
\$80.25-81.25 (£62.50-63.25)  
\*Excludes VAT



Six months' results (unaudited)	1984	1983	Full year 1983
Revenue	£126.3m	£112.1m	£207.0m
Profit before taxation and extraordinary items	£52.9m	£51.1	£80.1m
Earnings for the period	£30.0m	£24.9m	£40.1m
Earnings per ordinary share	13.8p	11.4p	18.5p
Dividend per ordinary share	3.0p	2.75p	8.0p

Sedgwick Group



A commanding presence in worldwide insurance and reinsurance broking

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Carless on course to top £7.5m

Carless Cipel said yesterday it expects its profits this year to exceed £7.5m, an increase of more than 50 per cent on last year. The forecast was made by Mr John Leonard, the chairman, in the offer document setting out the terms of Carless's bid for Premier Consolidated, another independent oil company. Carless's one-for-three share offer, worth £90m, has been rejected by Premier.

Mr Leonard says there is strong commercial logic for the bid, and says Carless's exploration record is much better than that of Premier. Premier shareholders would end up with 40 per cent of the combined companies after the merger, and are being offered a premium 40 to 60 per cent over the average Premier share price this year.

● TRADING STARTED this morning on the direct link between the Singapore International Monetary Exchange and the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. The new arrangements, known as mutual offset, allow for identical futures contracts to be bought and sold in both centres. Initial trading will be in yen, Deutsche mark and Eurodollar contracts. A gold futures contract will follow.

● BUNZL is raising its interim dividend for the six months trading to June 30 from 3.5p to 3.25p, after interim profits jumped from £7.9m to £12.1m.

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## Chubb forecasts record profits

By Our City Staff

Chubb, the lock and safe manufacturer, yesterday forecasts record profits and dividends as the part of its defence against a £146m takeover bid from Racal Electronics.

It said that Racal's attempt to establish a commercial and industrial logic for its offer was misguided and ill informed. The comments are contained in a 12-page defence document sent to shareholders yesterday.

The forecast of "record profits" for the year to the end of next March means that the group is predicting a result of at least £15.25m, a record established in 1979.

The interim and the final dividend for this year are to be increased by at least 30 per cent, and the improvement in the order book, which was up 23 per cent in the first quarter of the year, is being maintained.

Chubb says that its name is the most valuable in the securities business and that the bid has been launched because "it would appear that Racal is running out of steam and desperately needs a good acquisition."

Racal's technology has only limited application to Chubb.

Chubb has received several approaches from other companies since Racal made its bid

## Profits record after 'best discovery since Magnus'

### Big North Sea find for BP

By Jonathan Davis,  
Financial Correspondent

British Petroleum pleased the stock market yesterday by announcing record second quarter profits and confirming that it has made an important find in the North Sea.

Mr Roger Bexon, BP's deputy chairman, said that the find in block 16/7b - in the Brae complex of fields - was a "substantial" accumulation of oil. "It is by far our best discovery from the North Sea since the Magnus field," he said.

The find completes what has been the best year for exploration which BP has had in the North Sea for a decade, and makes up, in part, BP executives say, for their recent drilling disappointment in China and Alaska.

BP shares rose 20p to 493p after the publication of the figures, showing profits on the group's favoured replacement cost basis of £306m. That was slightly down on the first



Roger Bexon: making up for disappointments.

quarter's £324m, but up on last year's second quarter result of £283m.

Higher North Sea production and a £33m greater profit contribution from Sobio, BP's US subsidiary, helped to offset a downturn in BP's refining and marketing operations, particularly in Europe. Profits in oil trading and shipping were

£90m down on the same period last year.

BP is increasing its half-time dividend from 7p to 10p, which it says reflects not only the improved half-time performance but also the desire to obtain a better balance between interim and final payments.

Mr Bexon admitted that BP's failure to find any oil with its first five wells off China was a disappointment.

Having failed to find oil in the large geological structures it had identified as prime targets, BP will now enter a "second phase" of drilling deeper wells for potentially smaller discoveries. "I would expect to be exploring in China for many years yet," he said.

Whereas two years ago China and Alaska were BP's main hopes for finding significant new oil reserves, Mr Bexon said that the North Sea was once again back at the top of its list. Gas would also be an important source of hydrocarbons for BP.

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## STOCK MARKET REPORT

## Dollar-rich Americans return to chase their old favourites

By Derek Pain

The Americans are back buying British. The pound's latest discount against the dollar has encouraged another transatlantic share buying spree and yesterday all the old American FT index favourites enjoyed heavy progress.

Imperial Chemical Industries, once again, led the pack. It rose 10p to 493p before a late round of profit-taking clipped the price to 482p.

British Petroleum, recently the subject of American takeover rumours, was another to benefit. It rose 9p to 355p. Other higher on transatlantic interest included Glaxo Group, and Bowater Industries.

British Petroleum was the other outstanding FT index stock. It surged 70p to 493p on its much better-than-expected interim profits - £668m against £470m forecast. For the following year the broker is shooting for £83m, and £110m in 1986. *Reuter shares were 1p lower at 251p yesterday.*

£293m - and its dividend hoist. Another North Sea oil find, the best for ten years, also helped sentiment.

At the close, the FT 30-share index was displaying a nine-point gain to 848.9, easily its best level of the day. The FT SE 100-share index mirrored the mood ending with a 12.7-point advance to 1,095.3.

Besides the American interest and the BP performance, the market was encouraged by the prospect of talks in the pit strike, a firm Wall Street opening and the slightly improved prospect on interest rates.

An array of good company results and more excitement among the takeover favourites also improved the atmosphere.

Government stocks were firmer after Wednesday's uncomfortable weekend. There were gains of up to 4½p at the long end of the market with shorts up to 4½p better.

Romdree Mackintosh, the sweets group, was again in demand. Despite occasional flurries of profit-taking, it surged 12p to 340p, a closing

peak. At one stage it was at 344p.

There was considerable interest once again in the stock with many convinced that a £4 a share offer is important.

Tate & Lyle, seemingly outbid in the battle for Brooke Bond, was another to record sharp progress. It rose 5p to 390p as speculation persisted that the hunter will soon be hunted. There were rumours yesterday of a 450p bid from America. Unilever, the other Brooke Bond bidder, was up 7p at 927p.

Reckitt and Colman, the polishes to wines group, was another in demand. The shares jumped 17p to 540p, on its Wednesday figures, and on a vague talk that it was about to launch a US takeover bid. Naturally, in the present excitable atmosphere, there was also a suggestion that Reckitt, with its proud array of brand names, would make an ideal bid candidate.

Avana Group, famed for its Robertson's jams and Swiss rolls, has been the subject of a considerable brokers' debate with, it seems, those in favour beginning to win the day. The shares rose 7p to 429p.

After beer shares' sobering experiences since the disappointing July beer figures were published, they displayed a little more exuberance. A buy tip help lifted Scottish and Newcastle Breweries, the first big group to spotlight the lower-than-expected beer sales. 1½p to 108½p. Allied-Lyons, Baines and Whitehead also gained coppers.

Shares of William Somerville, a Midlothian paper maker, were unchanged at 170p yesterday, the Australian group headed by a New Zealander, Mr Ron Brierley, lifted its shareholding to 20 per cent. IE has stakes in 30 British companies. Best known is its near 16 per cent shareholding in Tozer Kemley and Millbourn, the international trader.

H. P. Bulmer, which has moved ahead recently on vague takeover chatter, eased 2p to 178p after Mr Desmond Bulmer, the Tory MP and chairman, told shareholders that cider sales, which have surged in the past few years, were showing no advance this year on the same period of 1983.

He added: "The reduction in UK cider sales growth, taken together with increasing competition in the UK cider market and the cost of developing new

brands in the UK drinks market, means that the company is unlikely to achieve growth in group pretax profits this year."

Imperial Group, the brewing to tobacco group, was again strong, up 7p to 166p. The market is convinced that a deal is in the offing. Yesterday, the price was spurred by transatlantic stories that a management buy-out was being arranged for its troublesome American catering and hotel group, Howard Johnson. Ho-Jo has been a bitter disappointment to Imps since it acquired the company in a controversial near-£300m deal five years ago.

Lucas Industries, the aircraft and vehicle accessories group, jumped 13p to 200p in late trading on rumours that the American Rockwell Group is about to launch a bid.

BAT Industries, up 12p to 250p, reflected satisfaction with the price rise achieved by its important Brazilian offshoot but Thora EMI was unsettled by worries over the £100m Immos acquisition.

Marks and Spencer edged forward 1p to 113p despite a loss by its Canadian operation. Bridson, after an initial flurry, ended unchanged at 89p following interim pretax profits of £7m against £5.4m. The dividend is unchanged at 12p a share.

Friedland Doggart Group, makers of sound equipment, fell 2p to 173p after interim profits of £1,110,000 (£1,098,000). The dividend is 2.5p a share (2.27p). But generally profit statements led to sharp advances.

Some of the high street store names were in demand. Burton Group rose 9p to 277p and J. H. P. rose 8p higher at 296p. N.S.S., the newswriters, gained 6p to 120p.

Crystalline was 10p higher at 278p. It hopes to announce the sale of its Royal Worcester Spode fine china side within the next few days.

William Collins, the publisher, fell 5p to 560p despite, doubled interim profits, and Portals was down 7p to 568p on its rather disappointing interim results.

Falcon Resources, recently elevated to the USM from the o-c market, gained 12p to 110p.

can group acquired a 25 per cent shareholding, believed to be from Mr Watson-Mitchell.

In recent weeks, Mr Watson-Mitchell has sold his share stakes in Reliant Motor and Harvey and Thompson, the pawnbroker.

Squirrel Horn, the confectionery group, eased 2p to 30p as the company announced a £61,000 interim loss. In its last full year, it had a £127,000 deficit.

Burmah Oil, figures next week, rise 6p to 198p and Bmz, where a brokers' presentation is expected, was up 2p to 305p after its 52 per cent interim profits advance.

The jeans maker Lee Cooper came in for a speculative run, up 10p to 118p.

Redman Heenan ran into selling pressure with the price collapsing from 7p to 3p at one time. Its shares closed at 6p.

Equity and Law Life came in for renewed takeover speculation with an 11p jump to 196p. Other insurance were subdued.

Unigate put on 1p to 126p on a mildly bullish address by Mr John Clement, the chairman, at yesterday's annual meeting, the 25th since the merger of United Dairies and Cow & Gate.

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## Offshoot lifts Cookson results to £20.2m

By Our City Staff

Cookson Group - the old Lead Industries metal and minerals company - has turned in doubled half-year profits helped by a record contribution from its important related company, Tioxide Group.

Group profits increased from £10.1m to £20.2m but the company says profits in several areas are still inadequate in relation to assets employed. However, thanks to better demand in Britain, profits improved in all the main manufacturing areas. The US subsidiary turned in the most significant increase in profits but most overseas companies performed well.

So far, the improved profitability of the first half has continued into the second half but the company warns full-year results are subject to US and British economic activity and exchange rates. Group sales increased from £267.2m to £359.2m.

The interim dividend has been raised from 3.7p to 4.25p on the increased capital after the June rights issue to raise £27.3m. Tioxide increased profits from £9.9m to a best ever £16.9m after volume gains and price increases in many key markets. Interest charges have also been reduced by almost £1m to £3.6m.

## Half-time profit doubled at William Collins

William Collins, the Glasgow publisher, yesterday reported more than doubled profits for the first half of this year.

On sales up from £43.1m to £53.4m, pretax profits rose from £2m to £4.2m. The rise in profits had been anticipated in the stock market and the company's share price lost 5p to 560p.

William Collins, Britain's largest independent commercial publisher, is 41.68 per cent owned by News International.

Grange Publishing, acquired by the group in April last year for £3.7m, contributed to the rise in both sales and profits.

The manufacturing division was profitable during the first half for the first time since the group moved to Bishopbriggs.

The board is raising the interim dividend from 3.5p to 4p on the "A" ordinary shares.

## BP proves the depth of its reserves

BP found itself yesterday in the enviable position of failing to live down to expectations. Gloomy talk when the first quarter's results were announced about trading in Europe were apparently confirmed by Shell's disappointing figures. But BP surprised everybody with earnings which demonstrated that life in the oil industry is not that bad after all.

Certainly BP's second quarter figures, with historic cost profits at £326m, were down on the previous three months, but not by as much as many had expected. Trading in the key European oil markets was hit by severe competition and pressure on margins, but the group managed a more than credible performance.

The main reason for its success in stemming the European downturn was the improvement in efficiency brought about by a continuing cost cutting programme in its refining activities. It would also appear that BP made a much more flexible and effective use of the spot market.

This is not to underestimate the problems which BP has faced in Europe and the second half of the year will see further pressure on margins. These figures demonstrate that BP has enough in reserve to mitigate the difficulties which it faces.

Upstream, BP still looks in good shape. The Magnus field has more than offset reduction in other areas, particularly the Forties. Oil production from the North Sea is up on last quarter and on the figures of this time last year.

Although operating profit was slightly down on the previous three months, this must be seen in the context of a hefty £61m exploration expenditure write-off.

Elsewhere, the chemicals division defied predictions that it would see a downturn and more than held its own and it is impossible to ignore the contribution from Sohio. Second quarter operating profits were £639m, bolstered by the strength of the dollar.

Although the third quarter will be a little flat, there is a suspicion that BP is just holding something extra up its sleeve.

The tax charge is conservative and there might be just

enough in reserve to smooth out any awkward fluctuations. The increase in dividend by 3p to 10p makes the share price, up 20p to 493p, attractive in yield terms, now about 8 per cent. To add to this BP still seems to have more growth potential than Shell and assuming a stable period ahead for the oil sector it looks solid in the short term.

## Booker McConnell

Yesterday's interim results from Booker McConnell provided just the sort of fillip to convince shareholders that they had been right in holding on to their investment at the time of the Dee Corporation's unwelcome bid earlier this year.

Pretax profits were almost doubled to £11.1m, dividends raised by more than 1p to 2.75p, and earnings per share also showed a healthy increase. The Dee bid is still in the hands of the Monopolies Commission. There is still a danger that a bid may be revived if the go-ahead is given, and Booker needs all the ammunition it can get to help repel boarders.

There is no reason for complacency at Booker. Although the profit performance was impressive it is tempered by two things. Some £4m of the pretax increase came from the agriculture division. However, half of that was attributable to exchange fluctuations and an increase in Booker's shareholding in the United States company, IBC.

The group's strategy dictates that it will concentrate more on the successful agriculture division and health products. Both are seen as growth sectors unlike the food distribution division which is distinctly mature.

Food distribution is by far the biggest contributor to turnover, but profits are disproportionately small. Booker might continue to support it for the time being but the management does not seem keen to make massive investments in turning it round.

If the group could shed itself of this cumbersome animal it would emerge a much more attractive growth prospect. Food distribution apart, it

could justifiably fight off most bids, and its planned expansion in the US only confirms this.

## Bunzl

Another virtuoso set of interim figures from Bunzl left the share price up 2p at 305p and sent the analysts home happy, nursing even more exciting profit forecasts for the full year.

Benefiting from acquisitions, interim pretax profits have risen by 33 per cent, earnings per share are up from 7.5p to 10.6p, and the board is forecasting a further substantial second-half growth. For some that adds up to a 50 per cent plus rise in profits to £26m, putting the shares on a reasonably forward-looking target price-earnings ratio of 12½.

Perhaps more significantly, the interim dividend rises from 2.5p to 3.5p, an increase of 30 per cent. The new management team at Bunzl, which has swept the group away from its dreary old cigarette filter business and into growth areas like packaging, enjoys the current premium rating, and is careful to provide the appropriate income streams.

Profits from the distribution side, which is mainly US-based, rose from £2.3m to £7.3m and now account for over half of group trading profits.

Bunzl reckons it now has about 6 per cent of the total market, which may be worth some \$8 billion.

On the merchanting side, Bunzl, now one of the world's largest pulp traders, has recently put together a deal with Grant Paper of Philadelphia.

With two growth areas under its belt, and a secure US niche, the temptation for Bunzl to shift into paper making must be strong. The group is adamant that any move into the capital intensive part of the paper industry barely interests it.

Instead, Bunzl plans to retain, as before, the old filter interests, worth about £3.5m in interim profits, and use the cash flow there to launch a near £100m bid for certain

American listing. In planned at some stage, but the group sounds keener to boost its British profits level. At the very least, this would help redress the impact of currency losses worth £400,000 at the halfway stage.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Company	Share Price	Dividend	Yield
1. Anglo American Corp. Ltd.	493.00	10.00	2.03%
2. Anglo-Siam Corp. Ltd.	355.00	9.00	2.54%
3. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
4. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
5. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
6. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
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89. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
90. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
91. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
92. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
93. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
94. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
95. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
96. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
97. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
98. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
99. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%
100. Anglo-Togo Corp. Ltd.	251.00	1.00	0.39%



## Return to profits signals first payout since 1980

## Pentos dividend likely

By Jonathan Clare

Pentos, the group run by Mr Terry Maher which ranges from Athens galleries to contract furniture, is set to pay its first dividend for four years.

Last year's return to profits for the first time in three years has been underpinned by good half-year results announced yesterday. The seasonally stronger second half is expected to improve the full-year results significantly.

Pentos reported profits of £126,000 against a loss of £463,000 on sales of £22.6m against £23.8m. After allowing for businesses disposed of, sales were ahead by 26 per cent.

Mr Maher, the chairman and chief executive, said it would have been imprudent to pay an interim dividend, but that he



Mr Maher: interim payment would be imprudent

expects that improved profitability and cash generation in the second half will allow the board to consider paying a final dividend.

The publishing and retailing

business, which includes Dilons and Hudsons bookshops, increased its profits from £228,000 to £335,000 helped particularly by overseas sales. Next year, about one-third of Athena's profits are expected to come from North America. The company also franchises the Athena name in Canada.

It expects to open the first Athena bookshop as part of a combined gallery in the Trocadero development in Piccadilly Circus in London.

Borrowings, £5.2m at the end of last year compared with a peak of £15m, are expected to fall further this year. The planned disposal of the last remaining engineering businesses should raise about £7m, including property sales and eventually entirely eliminate borrowings.

## VAT change 'could threaten jobs'

By Michael Prest

Johnson Matthey, the precious metal refiner and bank, has launched a campaign to reverse changes in value added tax rules which, the company claims, could knock £1m off annual pretax profits. Its pretax profits were £38.6m in the year to the end of last March.

The company also fears that the changes, now due to come into force on November 1 after a month's delay, could threaten jobs at its refineries in Britain because it will be at a disadvantage to its Continental competitors.

Under the changes, which were in the last Finance Act, the "posponed accounting system" for VAT on imports is abolished. The PAS effectively allowed importers to delay VAT payments for up to 11 weeks.

Instead, VAT must be paid at the docks, except when special deferral conditions apply, which allow payment to be made on the fifteenth of the month after the month in which

the goods are imported. This cuts the delay in payment to 45 days at the most.

The consequence of the faster VAT payments, according to Mr Graham Thornburn, Johnson Matthey's financial director, is that financing imports of gold, silver and platinum group metals will cost an extra £1m a year in interest charges.

Johnson Matthey imports precious metals worth between £300m and £500m each year. The material is treated at refineries at Royston, Hertfordshire, and Enfield, mainly on behalf of foreign customers for re-export.

The company is one of the world's biggest precious metal refiners.

Customs and Excise sources said that the new rules would apply to all importers, and that they had been introduced partly in response to protests by British companies that PAS gave importing competitors an unfair advantage.

## Hampton turns loss into profit of £119,000

By Judith Huntley

Hampton Trust, the property investment company with energy and gold exploration interests, reported pretax profit of £119,000 for the year to March, reversing the £28,500 loss in the same period last year.

The profit included £101,000, mostly from the sale of its Berwick Street property in London and took account of an £80,000 loss on the sale of investments.

Assets have grown since the year-end to 25.9p per share, compared with 20.8p.

The balance sheet value of the group's property portfolio is £12.04m, with net rental income at about £1.03m a year, a threefold rise.

No account has been taken of any new value attached to Hampton's freehold exploration

## Portals raises interim payment

Portals Holdings which reported its results for the six months to June 30 last is lifting its interim dividend to 6.50p (6.25p), payable on December 28.

Turnover rose to £101.26m (£90.06m) and trading profit was up to £7.89m (£7.23m). Pretax profit rose to £7.22m (£7.01m). Earnings per share were 21.7p (21.7p), fully diluted 20.3p (17.6p).

The first half of 1984 was not easy for the papermaking division. The problem has been a shortage of demand for products which together with pressure on margins has caused a decline in both turnover and profit.

The order book is looking a lot more healthy than it has for many months.

The trading profit of £7.89m (£7.23m) comprised papermaking £2.18m (£3.65m), paper treatment £4.87m (£3.07m), engineering £203,000 (£67,000) and property £634,000 (£575,000).

The company's balance sheet remains strong and it is eagerly seeking ways to expand business.

## In brief

**PHILIPS CAMPS HOLDINGS** has concluded a contract worth about 70m guilders (£16.2m) with the China National Technical Import Corporation on behalf of the Ministry of Light Industry and the Beijing Municipality General Corporation for a light industry project for the production of high-quality compressors at the Beijing Refrigerator General Factory. The agreement includes the supply of machinery and know-how leading

to the annual production of one million refrigerator compressors.

**BRIDGE OIL**, whose offer to acquire Project Oil Exploration closed yesterday, has advised its shareholders that it is presently entitled to 97.77 per cent of the issued shares in Project and that it will proceed to compulsory acquisition of all outstanding shares.

**BROOKEN HILL CITY** Drilling Pictorial is at a depth of 1.119 metres and drilling ahead. Two cores were cut and the test flowed gas at a rate of 190,000 cubic ft per day. No oil was recovered.

**LAIDLAW GROUP** Results for half year to June 30. Interim 1.1p (0.46p), payable Nov 15. The directors expect to recommend a final 1.4p per share, making a final 2.5p (1.1p) per share (1.86p). (Fig in 2000). Turnover 40,993 (40,411). Pretax profit: 386 (751). Tax 135 (264). EPS 2.94p (6.6p). Mr T. M. Robertson, chairman says it is still extremely difficult to forecast how sales and profits will turn out for the rest of the year.

**WADKIN** Results for half year to June 30. Interim 2p (nil) (Fig in 2000). Group sales 15,431 (£11,866). Operating profit after loss from other fixed asset investment 680 (458). Interest 198 (178). Pretax profit 482 (280). Tax nil (nil). EPS 10.04p (5.50p).

**FAMILY INVESTMENT TRUST** Results for 6 months to July 31. Interim 2.5p (same). (Fig in 2000). Investment income 233 (207). Management and admin expenses 43 (36). Loss interest 2 (nil). Tax 62 (64). EPS 3.24p (3.08p). NAV per ord 207.4p (195.75p). Div pay November 1.

**CERAMIC HOLDINGS** in its results for the six months to June 30 last shows that it

is lifting its interim dividend to 2.75p (2.5p). Figures in 2000 show turnover of 189,968 (£19,903), operating profit of 21,313 (£16,401), and related companies' losses of 8 (£1). Pretax profit was 20,055 (£15,043), with tax 8,401 at (7,080). Shares were unchanged at 144p.

**CRODA INTERNATIONAL** is paying an interim dividend of 3p (same) for the first half of this year. Figures in 2000 show a turnover of 18,823 (£16,676), trading profit of 936 (£210), operating profit of 936 (£210) including income from investment and properties at 185 (£178). Pretax profit was 8,521 (£7,023), and after interest 1,415 (£1,187). Earnings per share were 4.39p (3.46p). The company has no reason to assume that it will not continue to achieve in the second half the sort of progress it has been making over the last few years. Shares slipped to 113p, down 4p.

**SEDGWICK GROUP** announced pretax profits for the half year to June 30 of £52.9m, an increase of 4 per cent on last year's interim profit. But this was a smaller increase than expected because last year's interim profit of £48.4m had been revised up to £51.1m when yesterday's figures were announced because of a number of factors such as exchange rate movements. The company's expense costs rose from £28.3m to £29.1m, though profits were up in most areas of Sedgwick's business.

**NEW ENGLAND PROPERTIES**, the Newcastle upon Tyne company, has suffered higher losses than expected in the half-year to June 30. The company had a pretax loss of £361,000 compared with a profit of £59,000 for the comparable period last year. Earnings per share now show a loss of 1.2p against earnings of 0.17p in 1983. The company will be looking to lift its investment portfolio by buying property in the South-east. The bulk of its present portfolio is in central London and is worth £30m.

## FOREIGN EXCHANGES

## STERLING SPOT AND FORWARD RATES

Market rates	Market rates	1 month	3 months
New York	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
London	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Frankfurt	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Paris	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Stockholm	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Oslo	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Amsterdam	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Brussels	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Geneva	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Madrid	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Barcelona	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Lisbon	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Porto	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Vienna	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Zurich	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc
Dublin	1.2777-1.2780	0.110-0.150 disc	0.28-0.43c disc

Effective exchange rate compared with 1978 was down 0.1 at 77.6.

The market was considerably quieter yesterday as the rush for dollars subsided. Even so, the dollar showed that it was not going to back-track very far, meeting renewed demand whenever profit-taking threatened to rob it of anything more than a very modest part of its recent gains.

Sterling moved within very narrow limits throughout, ending 45 points above Wednesday's all-time closing low against the dollar at 1.2860.

The pound's effective exchange rate index finished 0.1 lower at 77.6.

Continental currencies generally made up a little lost ground against the dollar, although high

## DOLLAR SPOT RATES

Ireland	1.0460-1.0470
Singapore	1.600-2.181
Malaysia	2.3590-2.5205
Australia	0.8330-0.8340
Canada	1.3082-1.3087
U.S.	1.4482-0.8360
Norway	8.4150-8.4260
Denmark	10.6950-10.7050
West Germany	2.9440-2.9450
Switzerland	2.4610-2.4620
Netherlands	3.3270-3.3285
France	9.0360-9.0430
Japan	244.2-244.12
Italy	181.9-182.1
Belgium/Comm.	52.35-52.37
Hong Kong	7.8470-7.9500
Portugal	152-155
Spain	167.20-167.40
Austria	20.69-20.72























## Motoring by Clifford Webb

## German firm courts Jaguar for conversions

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(2).







## Today's television and radio programmes

Summaries by Peter Dear and Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

6.00 **Cee-fax** AM. News headlines, weather, traffic and sports bulletins.

6.30 **Breakfast Time** with Frank Bough and Fern Britton. News from Debbie in 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30 with headlines on the quarter hours; sport at 6.40 and 7.40; regional news, weather and traffic at 6.45, 7.15, 7.45 and 8.15; programme choice at 8.55; a review of the morning newspapers at 7.15 and 8.15; horoscopes at 8.30.

9.00 **MacLeod's America**. The late Donny MacLeod in the Canyon de Chelly, the Arizona homeland of the Navajo Indians.

9.20 **The final session of the Conference at Brighton**. The reporters are Vincent Hanna and Lord Scanlon. 10.30 **Play School**, presented by Brian Jones (p. 10).

10.00 **News After Noon** with Moira Stuart and Sandi Marshall. The weather prospects come from Ian MacCallister. 1.27 **Regional News** (London and SE only). Financial report followed by news headlines with subtitles.

1.30 **The Flump**. A See-Saw programme for the very young.

1.45 **Jessica Mitford**. Part two of the biography of the high-born novelist.

2.45 **The Adventure in Baldern** (1949) starring Shirley Temple with Robert Young and John Agar. Romantic comedy set at the turn of the century with Miss Temple playing the part of the rebellious daughter of a pastor who is in danger of losing his living because of the antics of his daughter. Directed by Richard Wallace. 4.15 **Regional News** (not London).

4.15 **Play School**, presented by Sheelagh Gilbey. 4.35 **Headstart** - The Cat. 4.40 **Jigsaw**. Another edition of the fun word game.

5.05 **Starwatch**. Paul McDowell goes shark fishing in the English Channel; Kathy Taylor tries skate shooting; and Suzanne Dando takes to top tans in the sun.

5.30 **Writings on One**. Squid on the wall. The story of a baby squid, found abandoned in the Oxfordshire countryside, that was adopted by a family cat who reared it as one of her litter. The narrator is David Attenborough (p. 5.55).

6.00 **News** with Sue Lawley and Nicholas Witchell.

6.10 **London Plus**.

6.55 **Cartoon**: Framed Cat starring Tom and Jerry.

7.00 **Blankety Blank**. The first of a new series, same Terry Wogan, but with a wider questionmaster, Les Dawson. His first panel consists of Lorraine Chase, Henry Cooper, Barry Cryer, Stacy Dorning, Sheila Ferguson and Tom Courtenay.

7.35 **Allo! Allo!** New comedy series set in occupied France about a cafe proprietor who helps British soldiers escape back to England. Starring Gordon Kaye (Cee-fax title page 170).

8.05 **Highlights of the IAC Coca-Cola Meeting at Crystal Palace**.

9.00 **News** with Julia Somerville.

9.25 **Film: Black Sunday** (1976) starring Robert Shaw, Bruce Dern and Marthe Keller. Thriller about a plot to overthrow the president of the United States at the same time killing thousands of football fans by exploding a bomb above a packed Miami Super Bowl. The first showing on British television. Directed by John Frankenheimer.

11.43 **News headlines**.

11.45 **International Athletics**. Further coverage of the IAC Coca-Cola meeting at Crystal Palace.

12.10 **Weather**.

## TV-am

6.25 **Good Morning Britain** presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. News with Gordon Honeycombe at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30 and 9.00; sport at 8.30 and 9.30; evening news at 8.45; guests: Chuck Warner, John Danksworth and Cleo Laine from 8.45; exercises at 8.48 and 9.20; the day's anniversaries at 8.51; consumer affairs at 8.51; Popeye cartoon at 7.22; pop video at 7.54; Joni Barnett's postbag at 8.15; Jimmy Greene's programme choice at 8.34; the weekend's best food buys at 8.43.

## ITV/LONDON

9.25 **Themes** news headlines followed by **Seaside Street**. 10.25 **Clack Track**. Cartoon. Hooked Crooks (p. 10).

10.55 **Film: Strictly Confidential** (1958) starring Richard Murdoch as Commander Bircham-Pryor, a failed detective. Directed by Charles Saunders. 11.40 **The Little Rascals**. 11.40 **The Lucky Comers**.

12.00 **Children and the Wheelies**. The wicked witch Fendula tries to disrupt a race (p. 12).

12.10 **Rainbow**. Learning with puppets and guest, Jo Rowbottom.

12.30 **Alternative**. An examination of holistic healing and its range of alternative therapies.

1.00 **News with Leonard Parkin**. 1.20 **Themes** news from Robin Houston. 1.30 **Film: Operation Crossed Eagles**. Starring Richard Conte. Second World War drama about the survivors of a commando raid who are captured by the Germans as they sweep across by plane. Directed by Richard Conte.

3.00 **That's My Dog**. A new series of quiz games for dogs and their owners. Presented by Derek Hobson. 3.25 **News** headlines. 3.30 **Songs and Daughters**.

4.00 **Rainbow**. A repeat of the programme shown at 12.10. 4.20 **The Moonmoo** (p. 4.25).

4.30 **Inspector Gadget**. Animated adventures of a bionic detective. 4.50 **Time to Time**. John Hunter goes back in time to discover what everyday life was like in the good old days (Oracle title page 170). 5.15 **Blockbusters**.

5.45 **News**. 5.50 **The 6 O'Clock Show**. Michael Aspel presents the first of a new series that takes a look at the lighter side of London life.

6.00 **Cartoon**. Highlights from the American version of the dirty tricks show.

7.30 **Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right**. Lighthearted game show.

8.00 **Me and My Girl**. Comedy series starring Richard O'Sullivan and Bill Brooke-Taylor. Tonight's widow Simon is attracted to an old friend (Oracle title page 170).

8.30 **I Thought You'd Gone**. The last programme in the domestic comedy series starring Peter Jones and Patricia Richardson (Oracle title page 170).

9.00 **Mitfs**. The second episode in the thriller series about a Fleet Street crime reporter. Tonight he is given a tip to go to a deserted part of London Airport. Starring John Thaw (Oracle title page 170).

10.00 **News**.

10.30 **The Making of a Modern London**. The first of a new series in which Gavin Weightman examines the growth of London.

11.00 **The Panasonic European Open Golf Championship**. Highlights of the second round.

11.45 **I Spy**. Spoof espionage action starring Robert Clack and Bill Cosby (p. 12).

12.40 **Danger: Wolves on Set**. A documentary about the making of the film, The Company of Wolves.

1.10 **Night Thoughts**.



Mori and James Cameron (BBC2, 8.35 pm)

## BBC 2

6.05 **Open University**. Maths Methods: Halley's Comet. 8.30 **Conversing with Computers**. 8.55 **A Community by Design**. 7.20 **The Universal Yesterday**. 7.45 **Chemical Processes**. Polymerisation. Ends at 8.10.

9.00 **Cee-fax**.

4.55 **Weekend Outlook**. A preview of a number of Open University programmes, of interest to the general viewer, to be seen over the weekend.

5.00 **The Greek Liturgy**. An Open University production that follows the Easter pilgrimage of Greeks and Cypriots to the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem (p. 10).

5.25 **News summary** with subtitles.

5.30 **The 1984 US Open Tennis Championships**. Highlights of yesterday's men's singles quarter-finals which featured Britain's John Lloyd.

6.00 **The Invaders** starring Roy Thomas as David Vincent, an archaeologist who reports the landing of a UFO to the police. When he returns to the spot with the law the craft has disappeared. Only when the police have gone does he pick up the trail that will lead to terror. Directed by Joseph Sargent.

6.50 **The Best of Best of Brass**. Gerald Harrison introduces performances by the Jones and Grosland Band, the North Skelton and the Twickenham Fives Stakes (4.10).

7.20 **Manoe Leacut**. The third and final part of the Jean Anouilh adapted love story by L'Abbe Prevost. Subtitled.

8.35 **Gardeners' World** from Wrenthorpe, Wakefield. Geoff Hamilton and Kay Jones in the cottage garden of Ian Lindley.

8.00 **Me and My Girl**. Comedy series starring Richard O'Sullivan and Bill Brooke-Taylor. Tonight's widow Simon is attracted to an old friend (Oracle title page 170).

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1.10 **Night Thoughts**.

## CHANNEL 4

5.30 **TUC '84**. Lew Gardner and Gus Macdonald at the final session of the conference in Brighton. Ends at 12.00.

2.00 **The Panasonic European Open Golf Championship**. Steve Rider introduces coverage of the second round.

2.30 **Channel Four Racing** from Kempton. Brough Scott introduces four races - the Hilditch Handicap Stakes (2.30); the September Stakes (3.40); the September Stakes (4.10); and the Twickenham Fives Stakes (4.10).

4.30 **The Panasonic European Open Golf Championship**. Steve Rider introduces coverage of the second round.

5.00 **Trak Trak**. The first semi-final and the winning teams from Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland compete in a series of events involving BMX, sailing, roller-skating and the new event of All Terrain Cycles, at Buckmore Park in Kent.

7.00 **Channel Four News** presented by Trevor McDonald. Len Murray reflects on his last TUC Conference as general secretary.

7.30 **Right to Reply**. Equity president Derek Donnelly responds to charges made by fellow actor Louis Mahoney that he is ignoring union guidelines by touring South Africa next week.

8.00 **A Week in Politics**. A welcome return for the weekly political magazine programme. Division in the TUC and how this will affect the political landscape is the subject. Labour employment spokesman John Smith and Ian Wigglesworth of the SDP.

8.40 **Hey Good Looking!** The first of a new series of five in which Stephen Bayley, director of the Bournemouth Project, the exhibition of modern design at the Victoria and Albert Museum, discusses design.

9.00 **Babble**. Comedy panel game directed by Peter Purves.

9.30 **Gardeners' Calendar** presented by Hannah Gordon. The experts from the Royal Horticultural Society Garden at Wisley demonstrate the jobs that must be done in the garden during September including tying up raspberries and planting bulbs (p. 10).

10.00 **Love, Sidney**. American comedy series starring Tony Randall as Sidney who, this week, joins a fan club and meets his favourite film star.

10.30 **Food for Thought**. This opening programme of a new series examines the major changes in our eating habits over the past two centuries (see Choice).

11.20 **Film: Postmark for Danger** (1955) starring Robert Beatty as the artist friend of a man killed in a car crash in Italy. He attempts to investigate the death draw him into a web of intrigue. Directed by Guy Green.

12.50 **Closedown**.

## CHOICE

It is brave pundit who, while his intelligent wife sits alongside him, dares to pontificate about the country from which she came and he does not. And it is a brave wife who intelligently dares to challenge her husband when he happens to be an acknowledged expert on that country. Such is the tantalizing spectacle in tonight's edition of **JAMES CAMERON: ONCE UPON A TIME** (BBC 2, 8.35pm). Mori Cameron's wife, Mori, is Indian, and is every bit as photographic as the country itself. It is, in fact, the visual aspect of India that prompts the first of tonight's Cameronian clashes. Husband, in his commentary for a television documentary showing scenes of poverty on the subcontinent, speaks of the "appallingly satisfying visual images" and of "how picturesque it is to be poor". Wife contradicts.

of truth in what she says, her husband's well-known love affair with India was patently born out of the realities of life in that country just as much as out of the innate romanticism of an Englishman abroad.

● **FOOD FOR THOUGHT** (Channel 4, 10.30pm), a new series about our eating habits and what we could do to improve them, is prefaced with a sequence that should make us hide our heads in shame at the orgy of gluttony in which we are engaged. And **SILVER HARVEST** (Radio 4, 4.10pm), a feature about the salmon farming boom in Scotland, sets us salivating so copiously that, unless you have strong moral objections to simulated natural eating, you can only exasperate our gastronomic preoccupations.

Peter Davalle

## Radio 4

Programmes on long wave. 1 indicates VHF stereo.

6.00 **News Briefing**. Weather. 6.10 **Farming Today**. 6.20 **Shipping**. 6.30 **News**. 6.45 **Prayer**. 6.55, 7.25 **Weather**. 7.00, 8.00 **News**. 7.25, 8.25 **Spot**. 7.45 **Thought for the Day**.

8.45 **Lady Adeline**. Reminders, scheduled in eight parts by Donald Anderson, with music by Michael Boyd. 8.55 **Weather**. 9.00 **News**. 9.15 **The Daily Disc**. The castaway is the Broadway director and playwright, George Abbott (p. 10).

9.45 **Feedback**. Your comments on BBC TV and radio.

10.00 **News**. 10.10 **News**. 10.20 **News**. 10.30 **News**. 10.40 **News**. 10.50 **News**. 11.00 **News**. 11.10 **News**. 11.20 **News**. 11.30 **News**. 11.40 **News**. 11.50 **News**. 12.00 **News**. 12.10 **News**. 12.20 **News**. 12.30 **News**. 12.40 **News**. 12.50 **News**. 1.00 **News**. 1.10 **News**. 1.20 **News**. 1.30 **News**. 1.40 **News**. 1.50 **News**. 2.00 **News**. 2.10 **News**. 2.20 **News**. 2.30 **News**. 2.40 **News**. 2.50 **News**. 3.00 **News**. 3.10 **News**. 3.20 **News**. 3.30 **News**. 3.40 **News**. 3.50 **News**. 4.00 **News**. 4.10 **News**. 4.20 **News**. 4.30 **News**. 4.40 **News**. 4.50 **News**. 5.00 **News**. 5.10 **News**. 5.20 **News**. 5.30 **News**. 5.40 **News**. 5.50 **News**. 6.00 **News**. 6.10 **News**. 6.20 **News**. 6.30 **News**. 6.40 **News**. 6.50 **News**. 7.00 **News**. 7.10 **News**. 7.20 **News**. 7.30 **News**. 7.40 **News**. 7.50 **News**. 8.00 **News**. 8.10 **News**. 8.20 **News**. 8.30 **News**. 8.40 **News**. 8.50 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